KARAKURI CIRCUS

KAZUHIRO FUJITA

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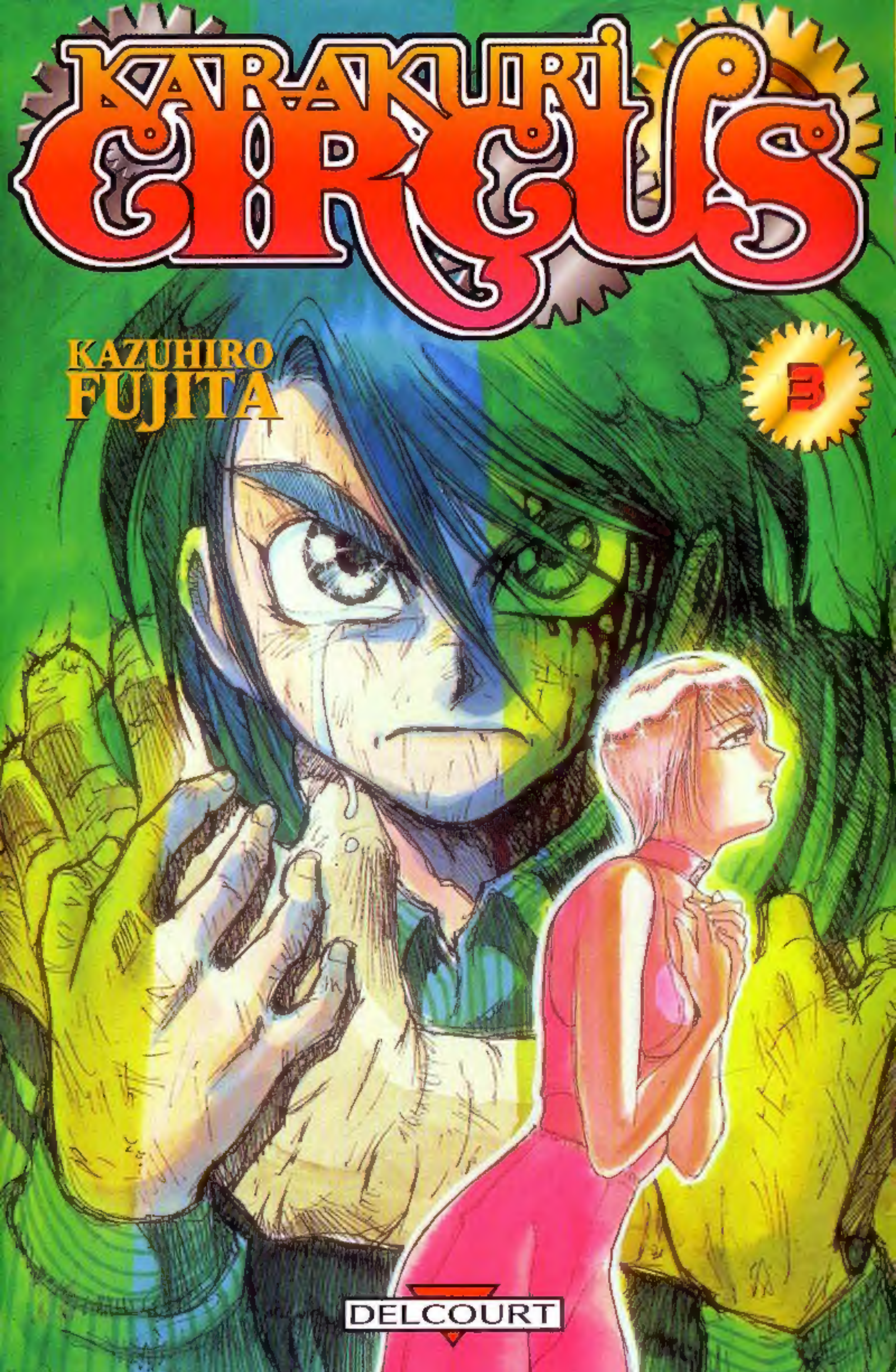

DELCOURT

KARAKURI CIRCUS

3

KAZUHIRO FUJITA

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Volume 2 Summary

Narumi Kato has a rare disease that could kill him if he doesn't manage to make people around him laugh when he's victim of a crisis. Masaru Saiga is in big trouble because of the huge amount of money he inherited from his father. Shirogane, a young girl manipulating a big puppet through threads, had her identity taken away when she was 5 years old. She was trained like hell in order to protect Masaru even at the cost of her own life. Masaru has been kidnapped by his uncle Zenji who wants to secretly adopt the young boy to get his fortune. Narumi and Shirogane are trying to get inside the Saiga's house where Masaru is held prisoner. At the same time the Killer Clan lead by Ashihana arrives at the house. All together they manage to get through the front door called Hell Gate. Meanwhile, Masaru escapes from his uncle and finds one of his father's books in an old piece of furniture. He's astonished by the revelations he reads in this book. Masaru is then caught again by his uncle. And to save Narumi and Shirogane, who have been trapped, the young boy is ready to sacrifice his very own life...

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I HAVE TO...

...CATCH...

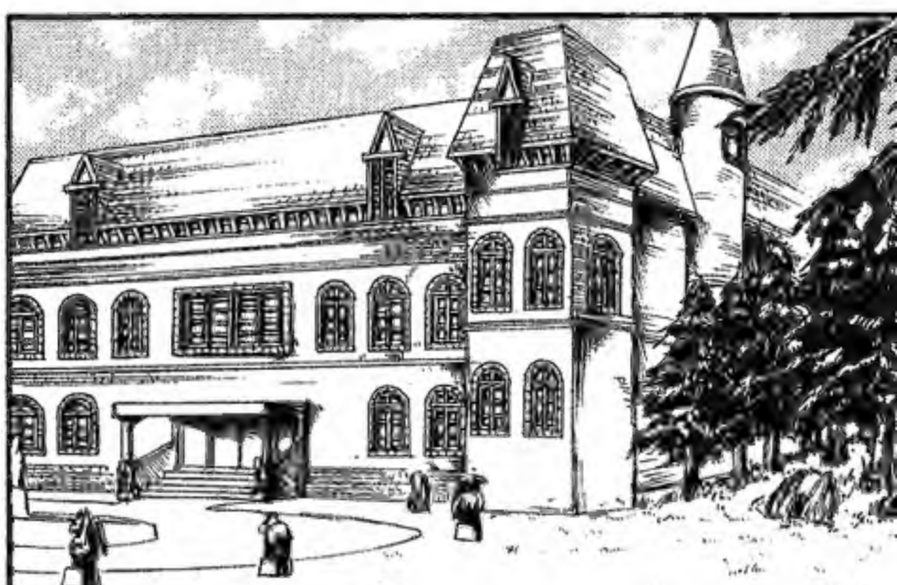
ACT 1 : MASARU

CHAPTER 18 :

"A CONTRACT WITH ASHIHANA"

...A BRANCH!

2



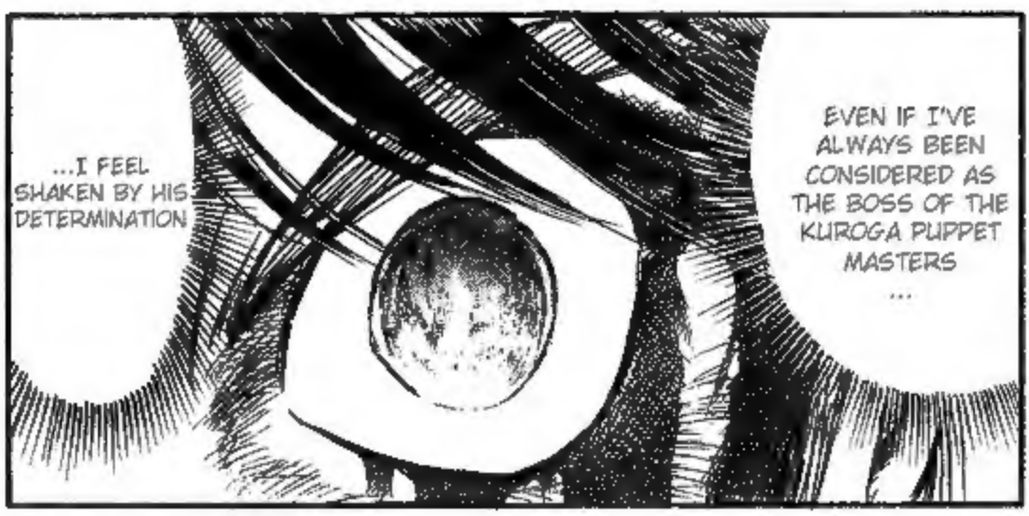
I...
AM VERY RICH !
YOU WERE HIRED TO KILL ME, RIGHT ?
YOU'RE WITH ME NOW!

THEN ...
WAIT A MINUTE, KID...
I'LL GIVE YOU AS MUCH AS YOU WANT !
GHF
18 BILLION YENS, MY FATHER LEFT ME!

... YOU WANT TO HIRE ME, RIGHT?!

...AND HE CALMLY STARTS TO NEGOTIATE WITH ME, EVEN THOUGH I'M SUPPOSED TO KILL HIM!
THAT KID IS INCREDIBLE! ALL OF A SUDDEN, HE FALLS FROM THE SKY ...

YES !


...I FEEL SHAKEN BY HIS DETERMINATION
EVEN IF I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED AS THE BOSS OF THE KUROGA PUPPET MASTERS ...

INSIDE HIM
I CAN FEEL THE STRENGTH OF A BEAST ...

BUT, TELL ME ... WHERE ARE YOU COMING FROM LIKE THIS?
FROM UP THERE ...

TIMID AND WEAK CHILD I MET BEFORE
HE'S NOT ANYMORE THE SPOILED...

I HAD A CHANCE ... MY FALL WAS SLOWED DOWN BY THE BRANCHES
YOU COULD HAVE DIED FALLING FROM SO HIGH!
I DEFINITELY WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM MY UNCLE ZENJI
FROM... UP THERE?!!! BUT...YOU... HOW DID YOU ...
AND HE VOLUNTARILY JUMPED FROM UP THERE ?!
HIS BODY IS COVERED WITH BRUISES
THIS KID HAS HIS HANDS TIED IN HIS BACK ...

HEHE
BOSS ...
HOW BOLD! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE BEEN BLUFFED LIKE THIS !
AAH AH AH AH! YOU'RE TOO MUCH, KID!

I CAN'T BETRAY MY EMPLOYER ONLY BECAUSE YOU'RE OFFERING MORE THAN HIM. IT'S A QUESTION OF HONOUR.
BUT WE... ARE HONEST KILLERS!
MOREOVER, EVEN IF IT WAS LUCKY, YOU SAVED OUR LIVES

HEY!
YOUR HANDS ?
SAH!

... WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
SO...

I'M GONNA SHOW YOU WHAT I FOUND IN BASEMENTS OF THE MAIN BUILDING

LOOING

HAZAMA, UNTIE HIS HANDS
I'M NOT GONNA RUN AWAY !

SCHRAC

THESE ARE THE PERSONAL NOTES OF SADAYOSHI SAIGA, MY FATHER

FLAP

DON'T TRY TO FOOL US, RIGHT ?!!

SAH

"Masaru's just a bait ... He'll be the trigger that will cause the extermination of all the Kuroga people"

"All the influential Saiga members will fight to get Masaru back and the Kurogas, employed by these members, will thus crush each other together with their puppets.."

"The Kurogas and the puppets which are here ...

will destroy one another and disappear"

THEY GET RID OF US ?!
AND NOW THAT WE'VE MADE OUR PART ...
... IS THAT TRUE ?!
BRRR

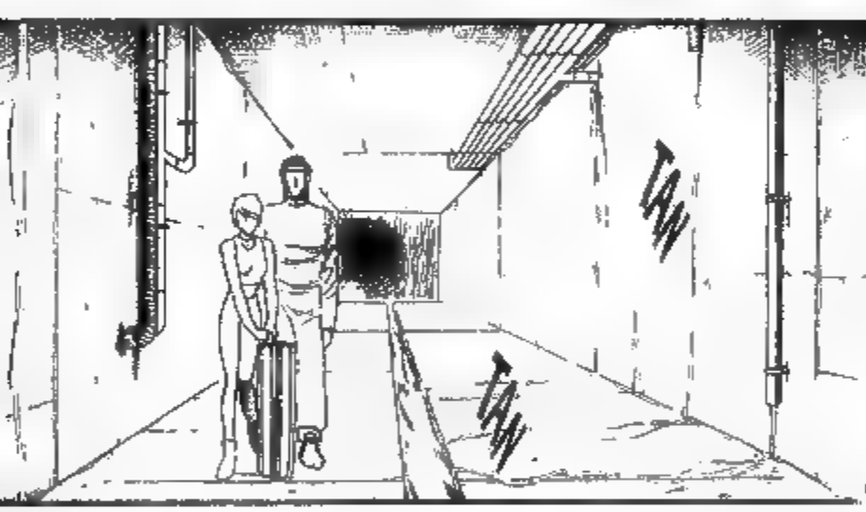
THESE SAIGA ... WHO DO THEY THINK WE ARE ?!
SCHRAC
DAMN IT!
BY USING A POOR KID?!

BZONG

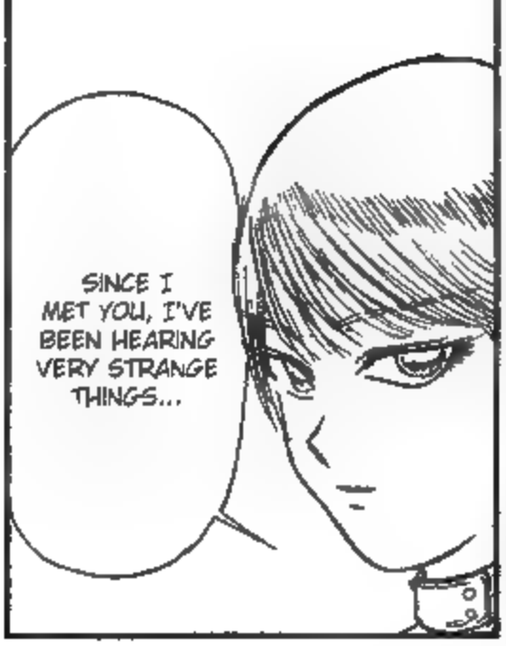
HOW MUCH ARE YOU READY TO PAY US ?

SO...

9

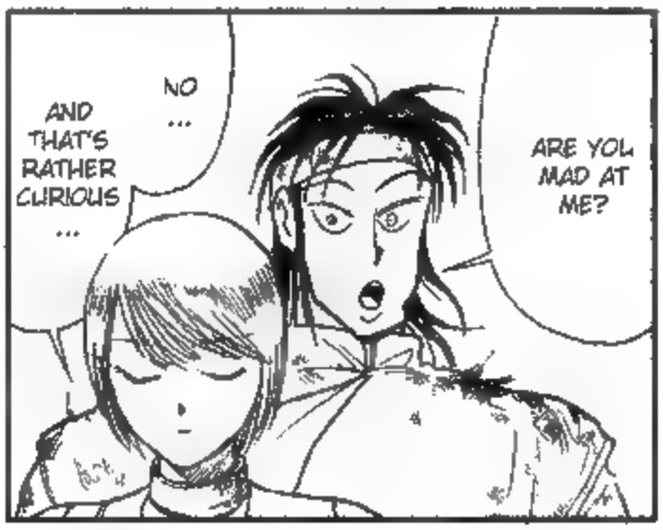


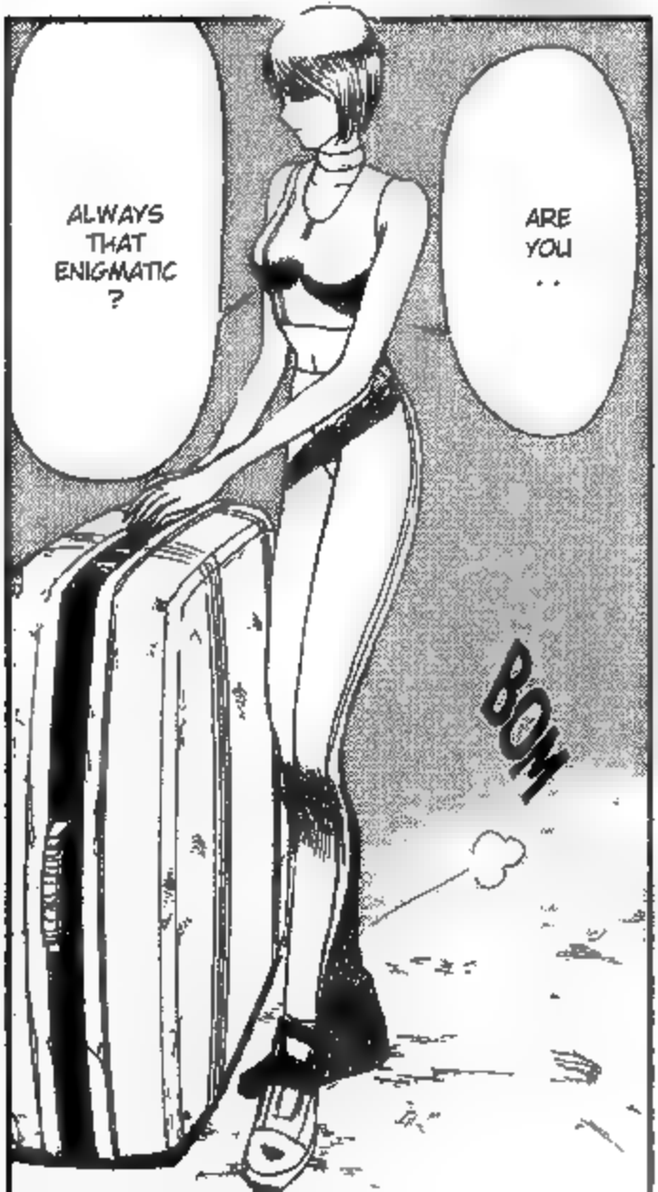
... WE MUST FIND MASTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
YEAH. . WE'RE CERTAINLY GOING TO MAKE OUR WAY TO THE SURFACE
THIS CORRIDOR IS WELL MAINTAINED ... NOT LIKE THE ONE THAT WAS UNDER THE TRAP DOOR

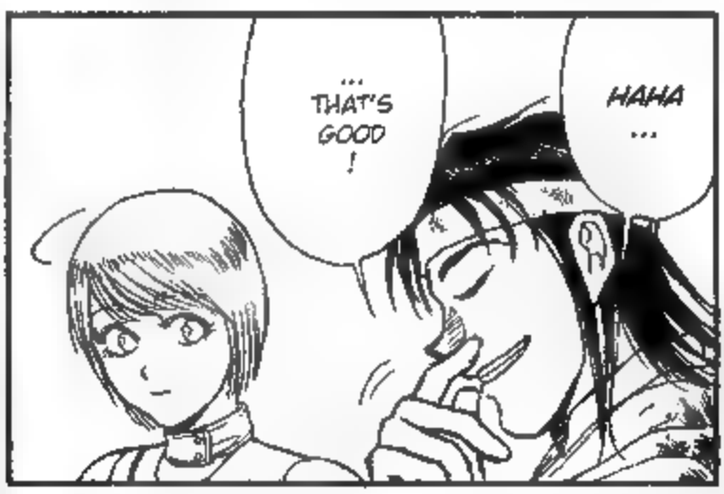

SINCE I MET YOU, I'VE BEEN HEARING VERY STRANGE THINGS...

HMM
HONESTLY, I THINK I'M 100 TIMES MORE WILLING TO FIND MASARU THAN YOU ARE!

IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME AT ALL


NO ...
AND THAT'S RATHER CURIOUS ...
ARE YOU MAD AT ME?


ALWAYS THAT ENIGMATIC ?
ARE YOU ..
BOM


... THAT'S GOOD !
HAHA ...

HMM.. YES!.. AND NO !

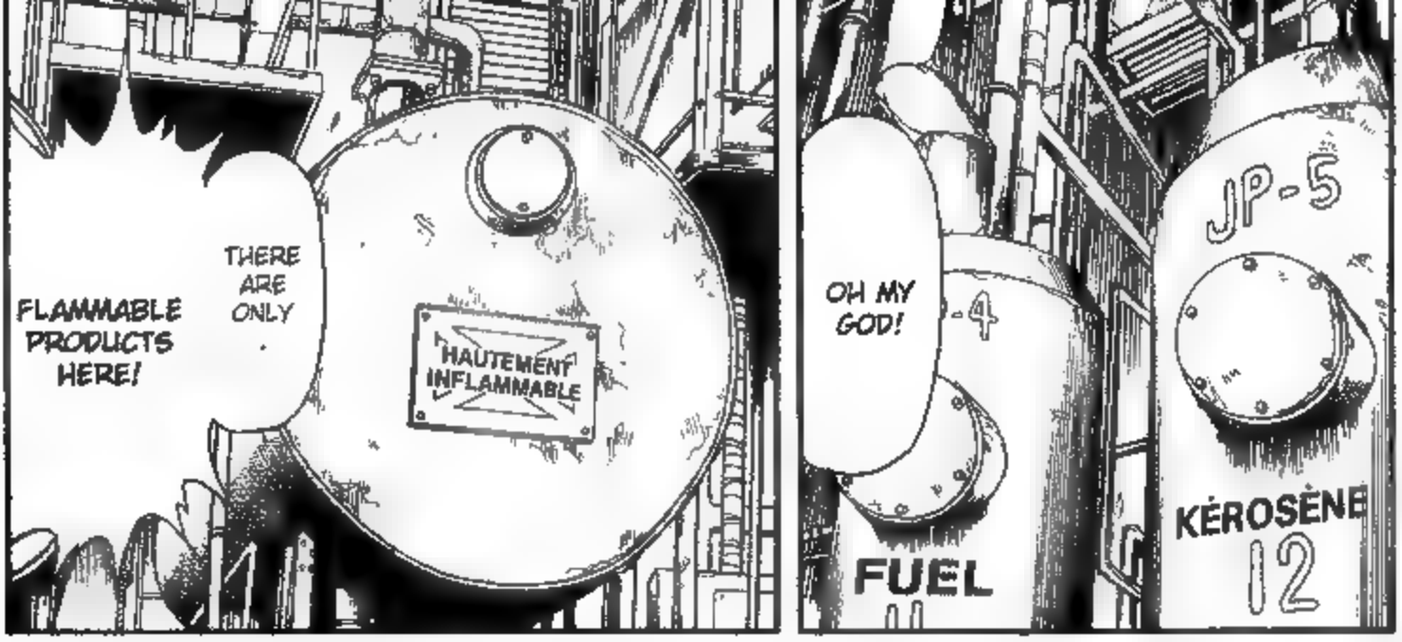
.. DOES IT MAKE YOU HAPPY ?

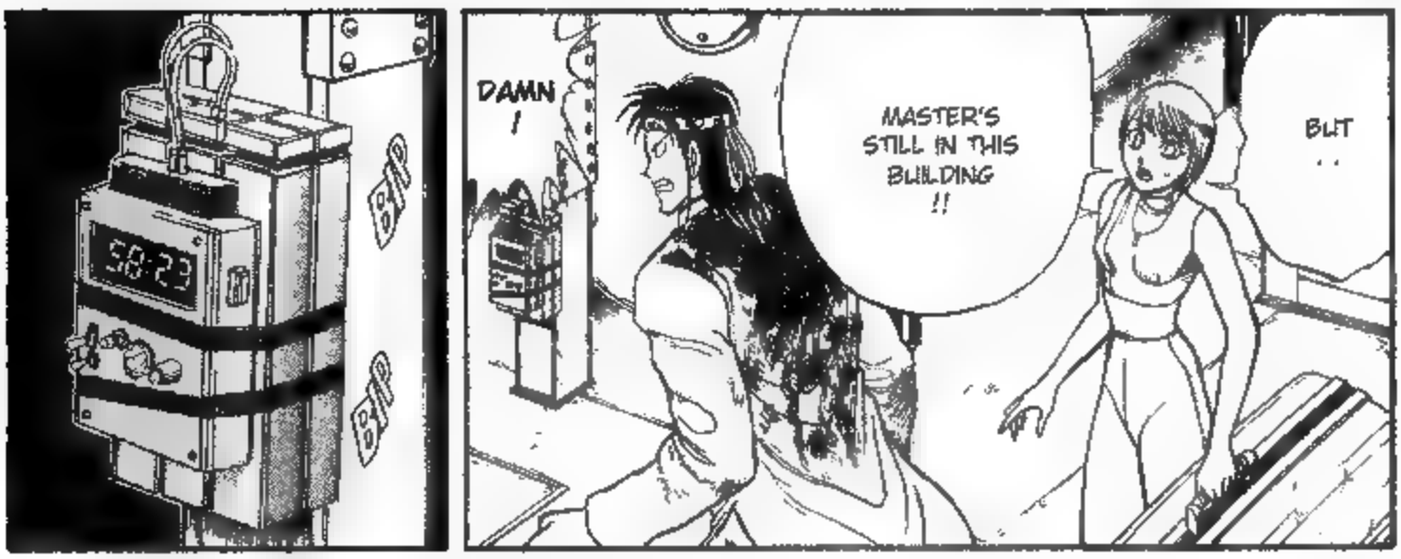
I HOPE IT'S A WAY OUT
THE LIGHT WE SAW BEFORE
SO THAT WAS
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
GET AWAY SANO! THE KILLERS' CLAN HAS NOTHING TO DO HERE !!

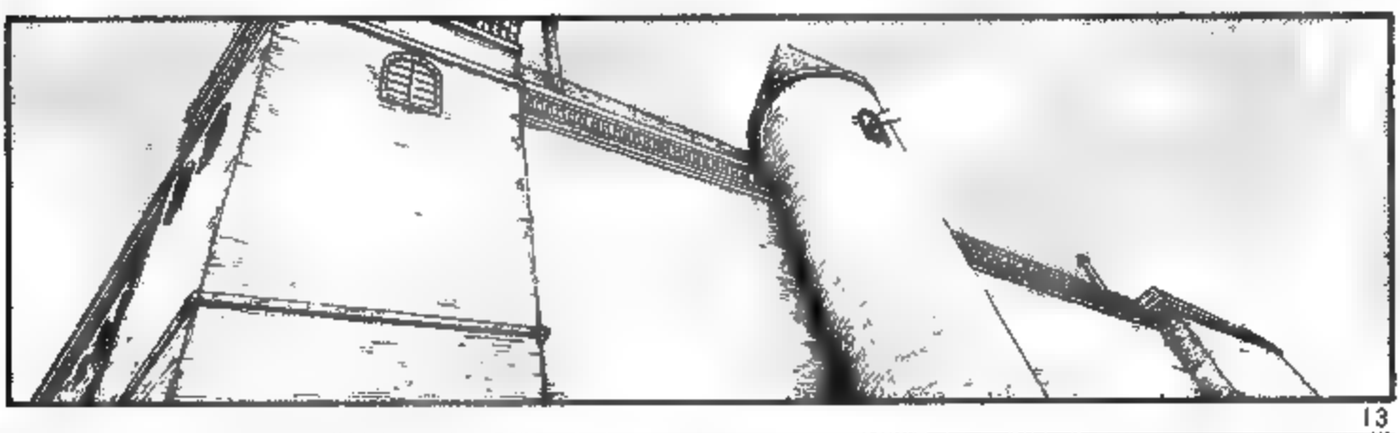
A BOMB
"
YOU BET I'M HERE TO DEFUSE IT

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DEFUSE IT AND THIS HOUSE WILL BLOW UP
"
IT'S A VERY COMPLEX DELAYED BOMB!

IF THAT PART OF THE BASEMENT WERE TO EXPLODE IT'S THE WHOLE AREA THAT WILL DISAPPEAR!

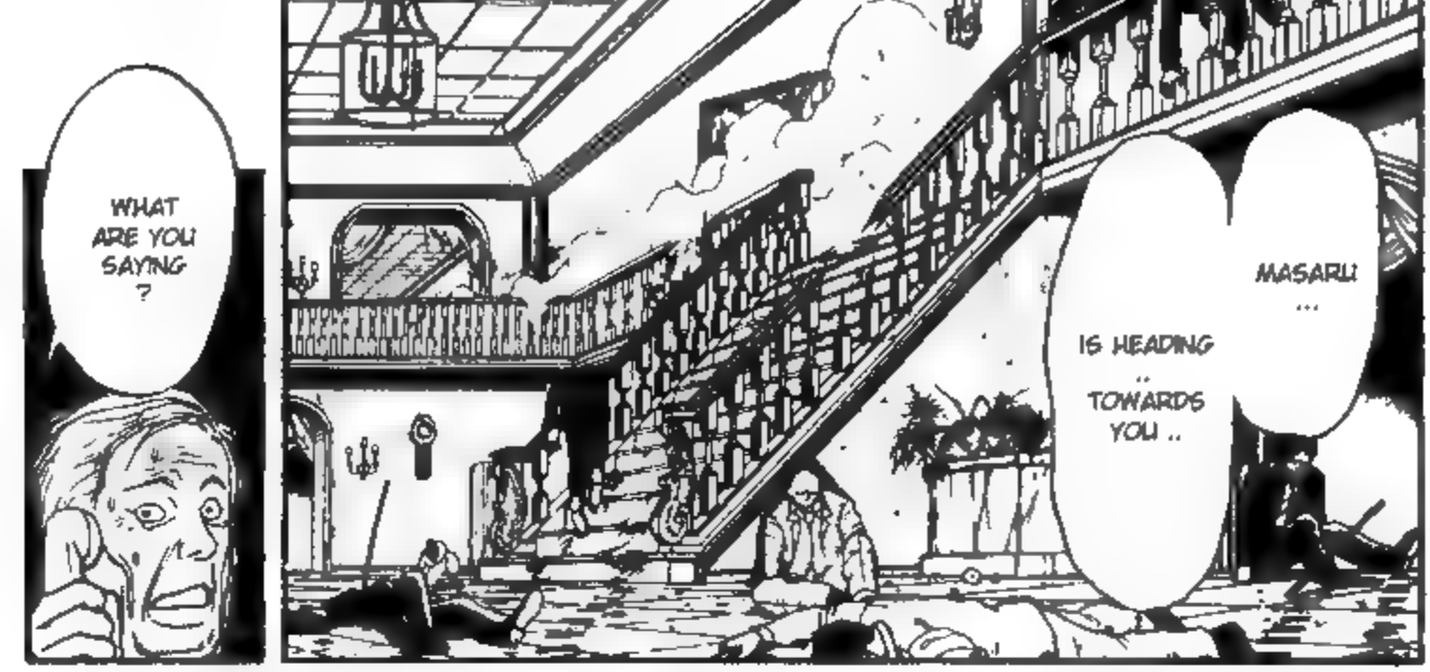

FLAMMABLE PRODUCTS HERE!
THERE ARE ONLY .
HAUTEMENT INFLAMMABLE
OH MY GOD!
JP-5
KÉROSÈNE
12
FUEL

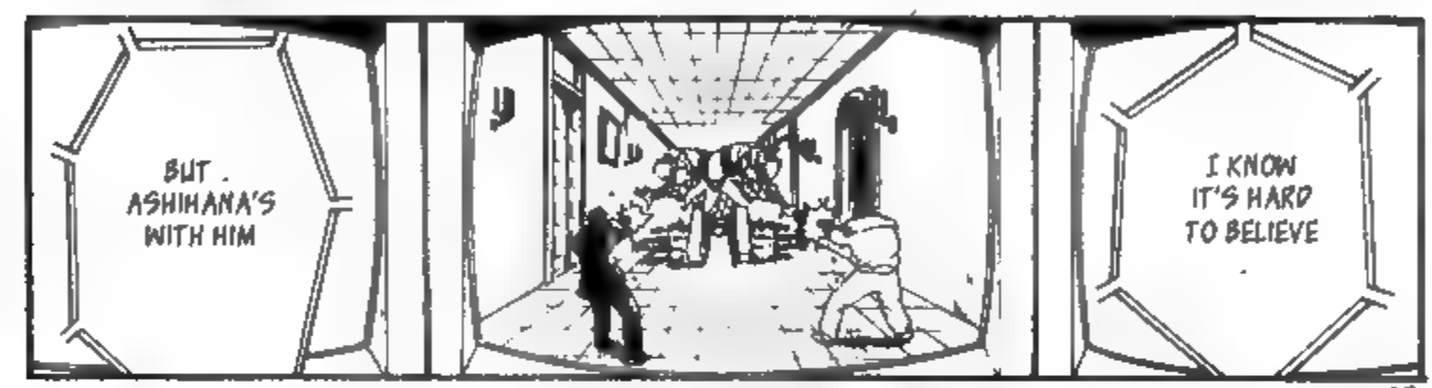

BIP
BIP
DAMN !
MASTER'S STILL IN THIS BUILDING !!
BUT ..



MASARU JUMPED ..
HE MUST BE DEAD ..

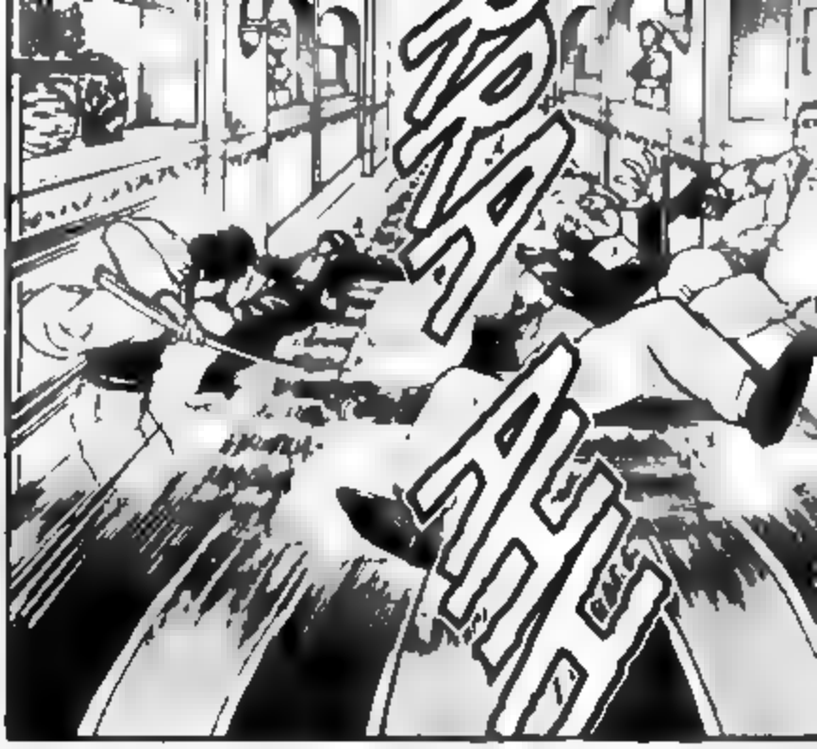
TSUKUDU
LUCK HAS DEFINITELY LEFT ME . .
... IS RUINED !
MY PLAN TO ADOPT HIM IN ORDER TO GET THE 18 BILLION YENS . .
HE WENT THROUGH THE MAIN STA.RS AND NOW HE'S IN THE STA.RS N 2
MASARU'S MOVING
IT'S ME, HAVE YOU FOUND HIS BODY ?
CLAC
CHECK OUT THAT .
HEY!
ANSWER ME!
WHAT ?
WHAT?! MASARU'S ALIVE?!
AH AH AH! AND HAVE YOU CAPTURED HIM ?
14
YOU HAVE TO ... GET AWAY ...
MISTER SAIGA ...


WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ?
MASARU ...
IS HEADING .. TOWARDS YOU ..


BUT . ASHIHANA'S WITH HIM
I KNOW IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE .

...AND THEY'RE RIDING GRIMALDI !!
BRR-HAH!!

I CAN UNDERSTAND YOU'D LIKE TO FIND YOUR FRIENDS ...
BUT, FIRST, WE HAVE TO TALK TO YOUR UNCLE !


BRUSH

I'M COMING !
NARUMI SHIROGANE

WE MUST MAKE HIM DISARM ALL THE TRAPS OF THIS BUILDING!
YEAH !

SLAM

DAN DAN DAN

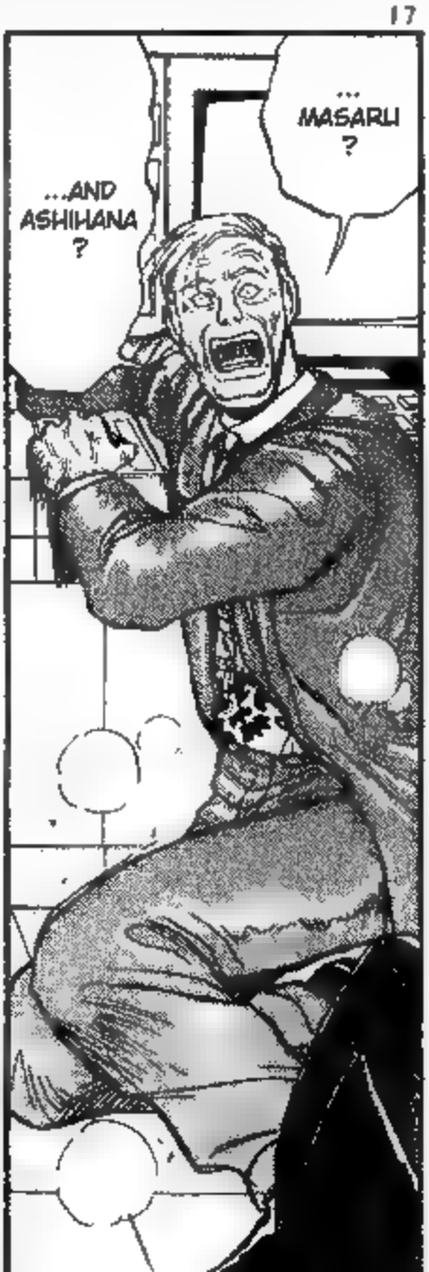
DAAH!

CLIC
CLIC
CLIC

YOU HAVE TO DISARM ...
UNCLE ZENJI ...
ALL THE TRAPS !

IT'S TRUE THAT GRIMALDI IS REALLY FAST ...
HE HE HE! LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T HAD ENOUGH TIME TO CALL THE OTHER PUPPET MASTERS !

YOU MUST OBEY US
MISTER SAIGA, LISTEN CAREFULLY
CLIC
CLIC
CLIC


... MASARU ?
...AND ASHIHANA ?

...
IT WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING !
GOT IT ?!
MASARU
EVEN THOUGH YOU CAME WITH A BACKUP
AH AH
HEY
MAMA !
LUCK'S BACK ON MY SIDE !
LOOK !!

WHO'S GONNA OBEY ME!
IT'S YOU, MASARU ...

ACT 1: MASARU
CHAPTER NINETEEN :
"CHINESE TECHNIC"

SAGA RESIDENCE - KARUIZAWA

BASEMENT - THE FUEL TANKS
... IT'S A TIME BOMB !

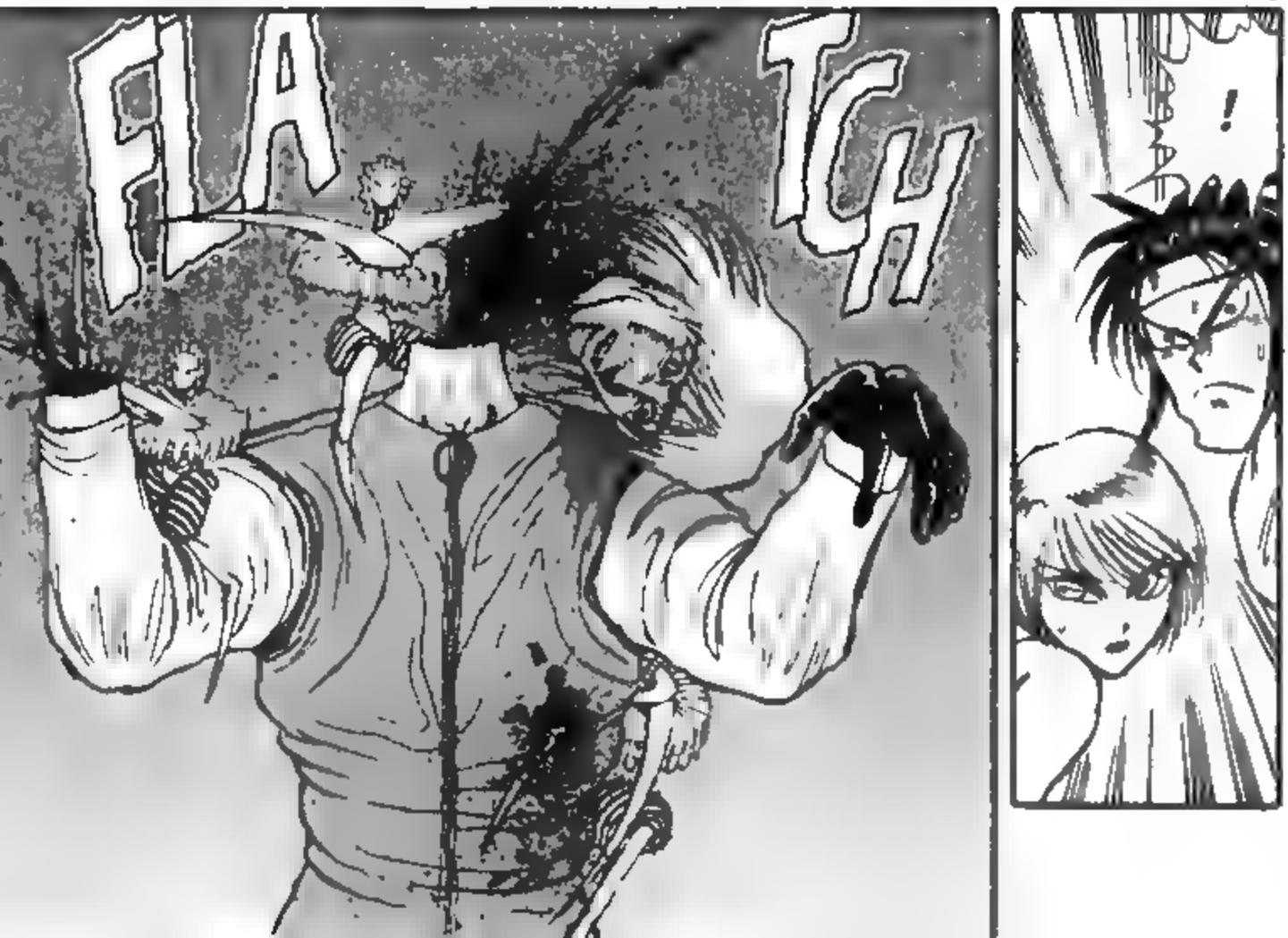
2

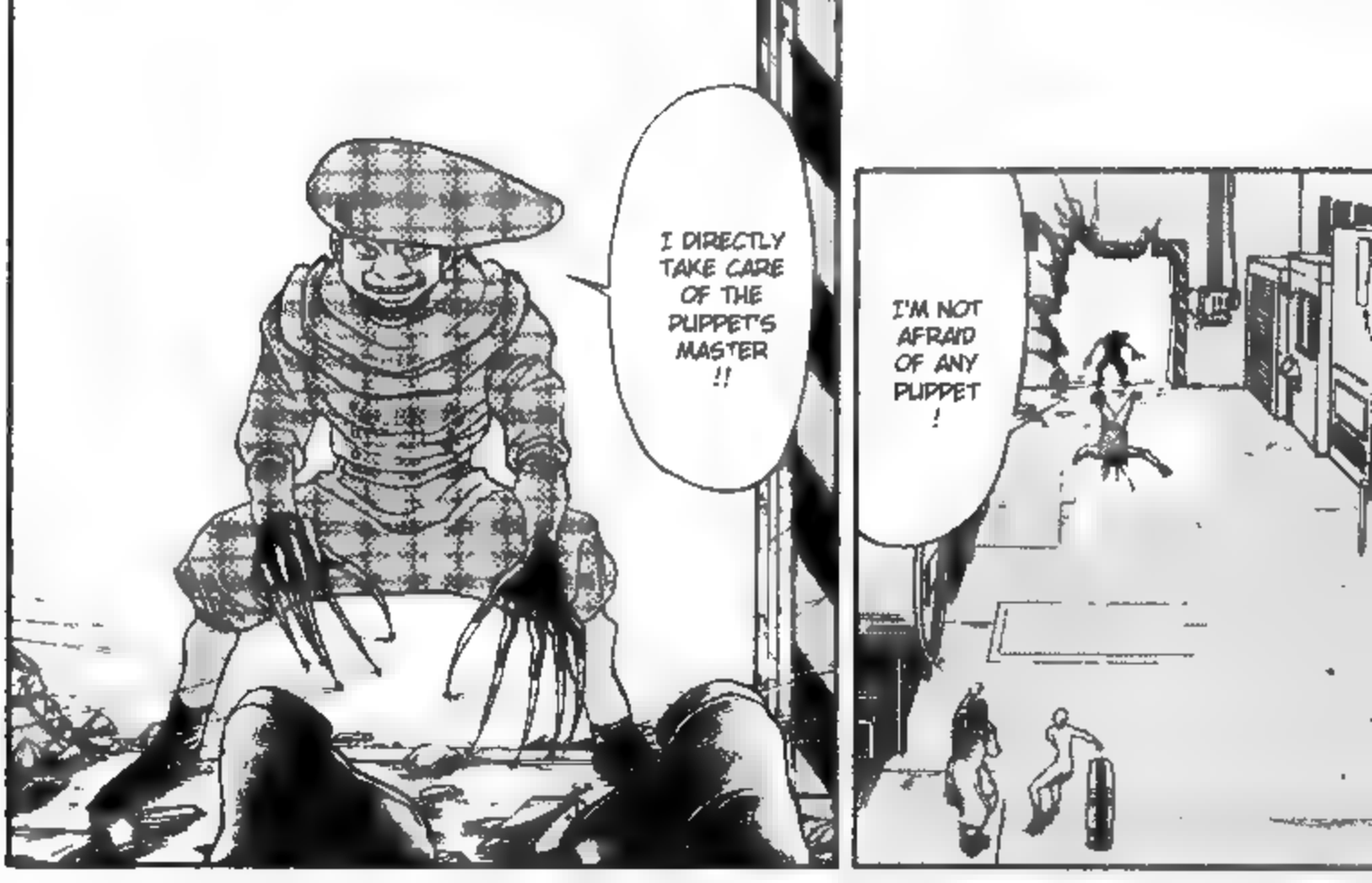
IT'S THIS WAY THAT ASHIHANA HOPED TO GET RID OF MASARU !!
IT'LL EXPLODE IN 57 MINUTES !

BIP
BIP
BIP

LET IT GO OR WE'LL ALL EXPLODE THIS INSTANT !
IT MOST PROBABLY REACTS TO VIBRATION !
OBVIOUSLY, IT'S A SPECIAL BOMB!
WAIT !
STUPID!
I'LL IMMEDIATELY TAKE IT OFF !

SCHCLIC
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR JOKING !
AH
IT FITS YOU WELL
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD BE SO LIVELY !


FLA
TCH
!


I DIRECTLY TAKE CARE OF THE PUPPET'S MASTER !!
I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANY PUPPET !

I AM THE "DUCK DUMMY" MASTER ...
MY NAME'S YAMANAKA
... LEAVE IT TO ARLEQUIN !
MOVE BACK, SHIROGANE !
SLASH

DAMN !

... WHICH ARE FIVE
!

WOM

FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP

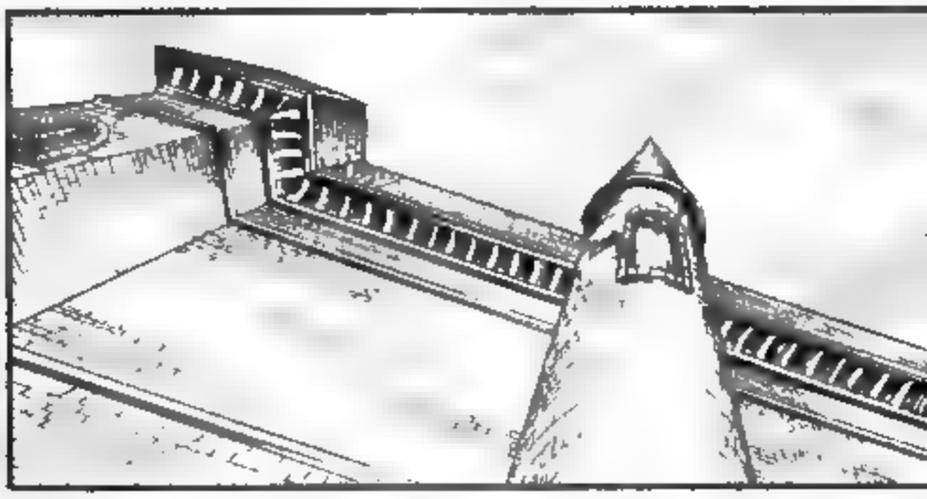
5

FARE-
WELL,
YOUNG
ONES
!
SSH

THAT'S THE
STRENGTH OF
MY "DUCK
DUMMY"
!
... I CUT
THEIR
HEAD
CLIC
CLIC
CLIC

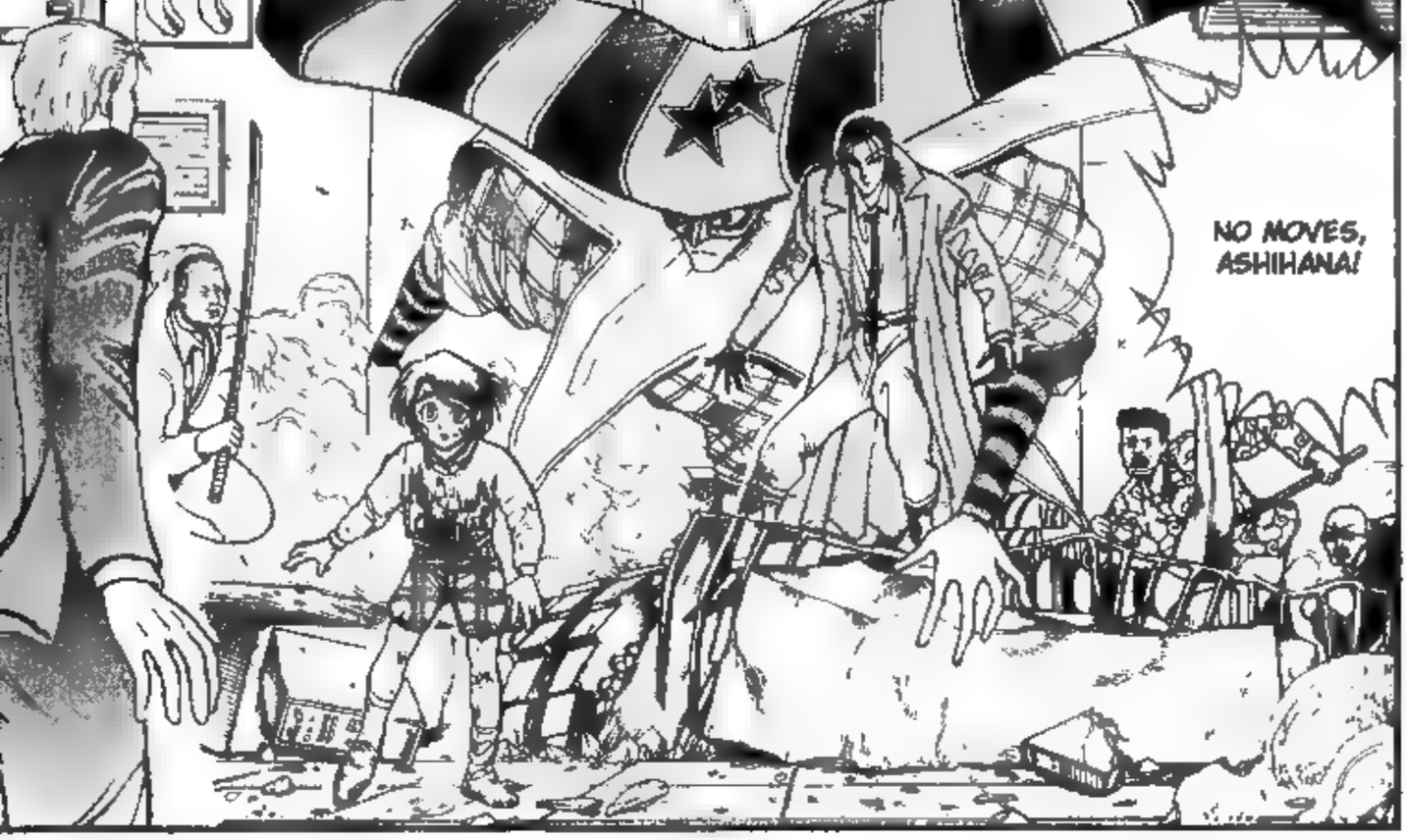
BUT
...
THESE
WIRES ARE
UNBREAKABLE!
THEY IMMOBILIZE
MY ENEMIES,
AND THEN
BZOÏNG

HERE'S ZENJI! DON'T KILL THEM YET!
WAIT, YAMANAKA !
CLIC CLIC
CLIC



SHIROGANE ... AND NARUMI ...

HA HAAA! IT SEEMS THE TABLES HAVE TURNED AROUND! ISN'T IT, MASARU ?!
WELL, MR SAIGA


NO MOVES, ASHIHANA!

THAT'S ENOUGH !
DAMN !

OK
YOU ARE THE BOSS, BRAT ...

MR ASHIHANA ... PLEASE ..

THEN TELL THIS MAN TO STAY STILL
YOU CARE FOR YOUR TWO FRIENDS, MASARU ?

GOH
YOU KNOW WHAT I DESIRE, DON'T YOU ?
BAF
... THAT YOU'RE STILL ALIVE
YOU HURT MY FEELINGS, MASARU. BUT I'M HAPPY ...
YES, EXACTLY !
THAT I BECOME YOUR SON ..

GAAH !
... AT YOUR SERVICE !
H I H I
ZZ AAHHH
DO IT, YAMA-NAKA

STOP HIM, UNCLE ZENJI !
STOP !
NN .
IT HURTS, HUH ?!
AH ...
THEY ARE ... WATCHING US...
... MASARU ?
STOP HIM!
9
YOU DARE PROVOKE ME?!
... WHAT ?!
WHAT'S THIS LAME THING?! I DON'T FEEL A THING!
HE HE ...
GRRR

MASTER, WE'RE FINE! WE'LL BE THERE SOON!
I WOULD HAVE FELT NOTHING MORE, IF YOU HAD WALKED ON MY SHADOW!
YOU THINK I'D SUFFER FROM LITTLE THINGS LIKE THAT?
HEHE ...
ZZAA

SHUT UP!!!
... WE'RE COMING !
YOU GOT IT, MASARU ?! DON'T LISTEN TO YOUR STUPID OLD UNCLE!

AAH
GAAH

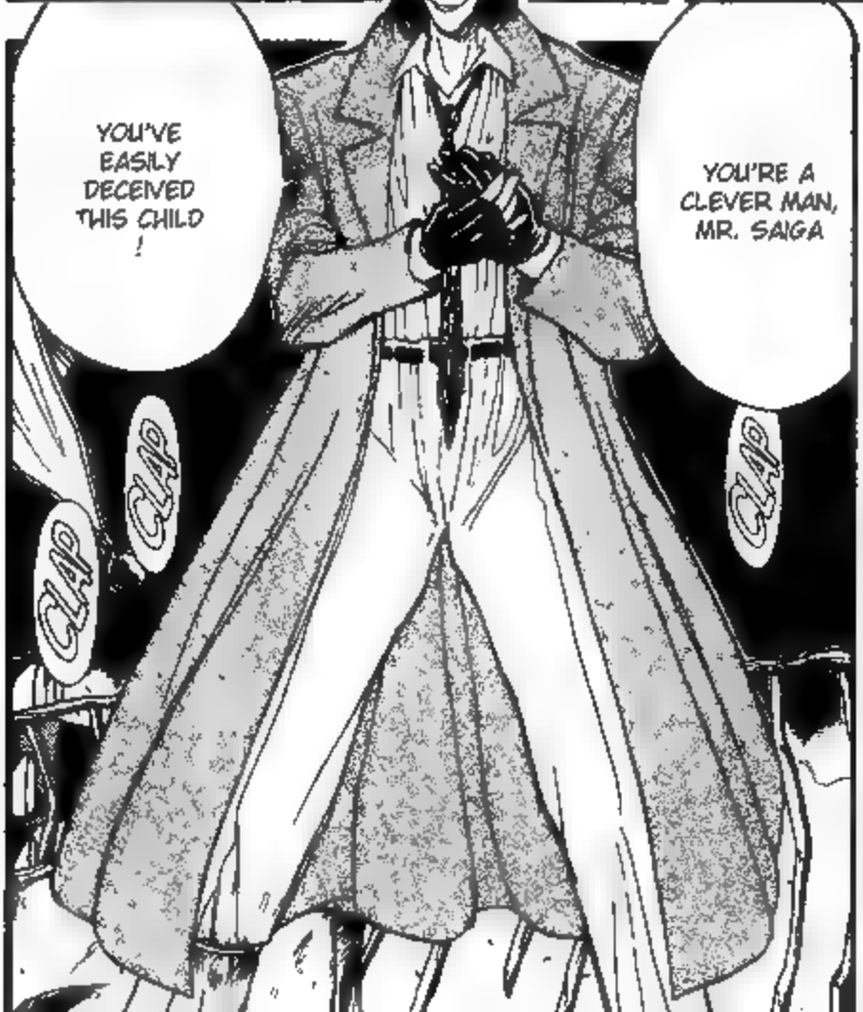
SO? WHAT DO YOU DECIDE, MASARU ?
HA HA! EVEN IF THEY PLAY TOUGH, ONE WORD FROM ME ...
...AND THEY'RE DEAD !
YOUR SON ...
I'LL BE ...

HA HAAA! AT LAST !!
I AGREE TO BECOME YOUR SON ...
REPEAT IT! I DIDN'T HEAR IT WELL!

FROM NOW ON, YOU CAN CALL ME "DAD" !

WE'LL SET THEM FREE OVER THERE ...
TAKE THEM TO THE TOP OF THE PAGODA

BUT OF COURSE! I CAN'T REFUSE ANYTHING FROM MY BELOVED SON!
BUT YOU HAVE TO FREE NARUMI AND SHIROGANE !


YOU'VE EASILY DECEIVED THIS CHILD !
YOU'RE A CLEVER MAN, MR. SAIGA
CLIP
CLIP

YES
UNDERSTOOD, YAMANAKA ?

OK...
COME, MASARU
CLIP

... DECEIVED ME?
HE HAS ...

M?
HUH?! ...WHY ARE YOU SAYING THAT ?!

ZZOM

13

CLANG

SHAKE

WHY ARE YOU TAKING THEM TO THE PAGODA'S TOP?
YOU COULD'VE FREED THEM AT THE ENTRY ...

YOUR TWO FRIENDS KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR UNCLE'S SCHEMES ...
THINK A LITTLE, MASARU
HOW DARE YOU ?!
LET GO OF ME!
MASARU, COME THIS WAY!

DO YOU REALLY THINK HE WOULD LET THEM GO LIKE THAT?!

UNCLE ZENJI ?
... IT'S TRUE ?

.. FROM THE PAGODA'S TOP!
THEY WILL BE FREED, BUT ...

HE HE HE !
WELL THOUGHT !

YOU GOT NO HONOR !
...

GHH

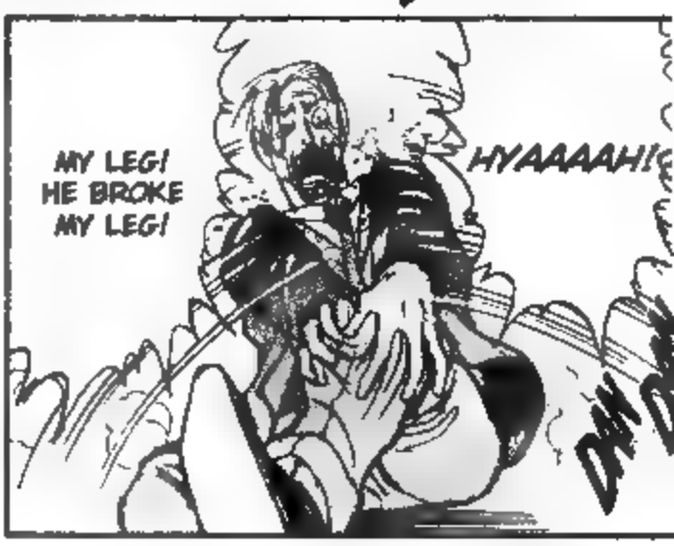
... MASARU !
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ?!
HAHA HAAA! ... SO WHAT ?!
YOU WANT ANOTHER CORRECTION ?
SHUT UP!
! ... HEY !
"AND VIOLENTLY HIT HIS HEAD WITH THE OTHER HAND"
"YOU TAKE YOUR ENEMY BY THE HANDS"
" AND DELIVER A POWERFUL KICK TO KNEE OR SHIN."

GRAAAHH!

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT STUPID !

BAM

MR. ZENJI !
UNCLE ZENJI, SAVE NARUMI AND SHIROGANE !


MY LEG! HE BROKE MY LEG!
HYAAAAH!

... THAT YOU MUST NEVER DROP YOUR ATTENTION !

THANK YOU, KID! I'LL BE ABLE TO SHOW THESE GUYS ...

WHAT STRENGTH !
DAMN BRAT !

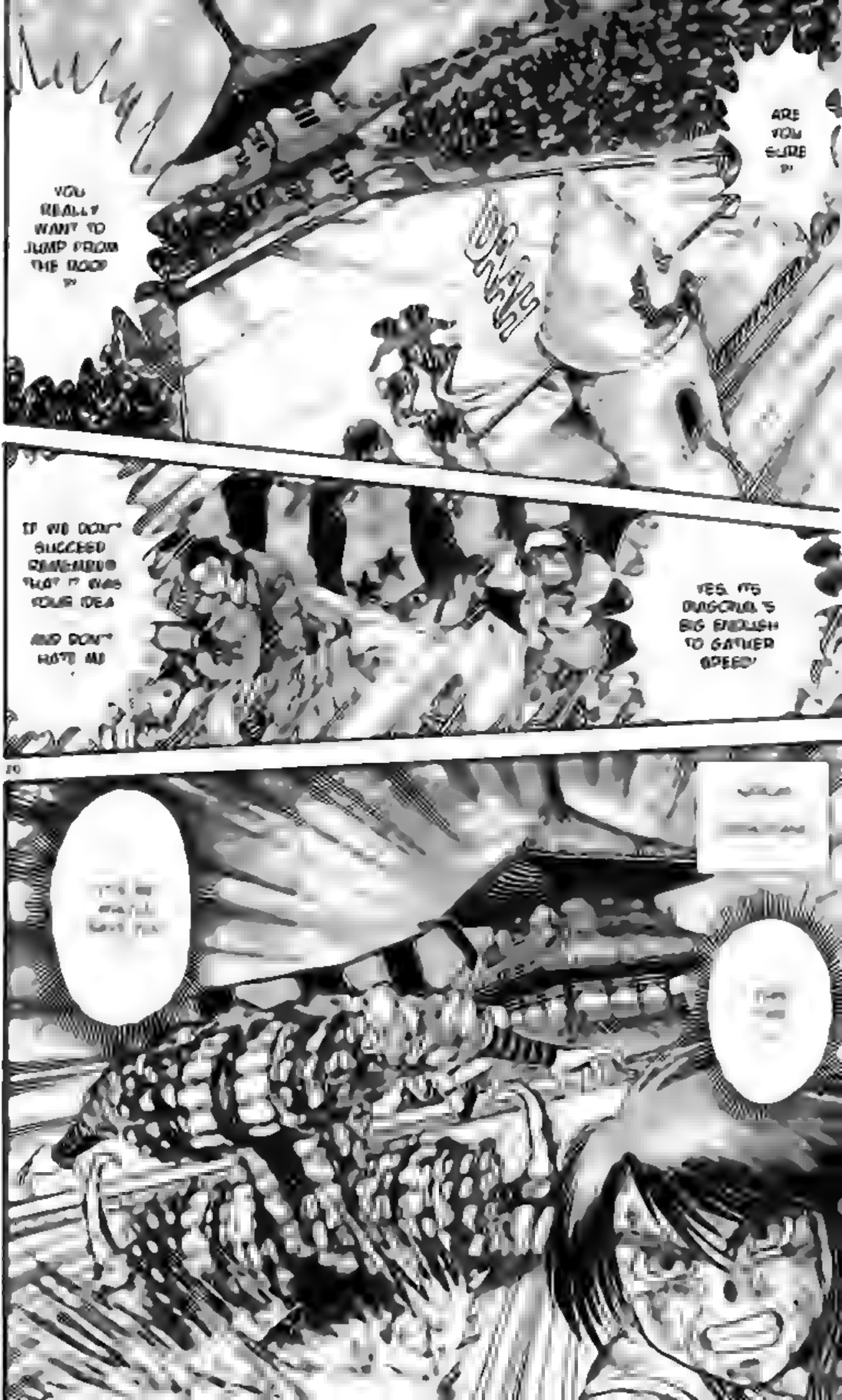
NO... WE'LL NEVER HAVE THE TIME ...
THEN, WE MUST GO BACK DOWN, AND ...

YOU WANT TO GET YOUR FRIENDS BACK, RIGHT ?!
MR. ASHIHANA !
SHIT!

THEN ... WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST ?

BY THE TIME WE HAVE GONE DOWN THIS BUILDING AND UP TO THE PAGODA'S TOP, THEY'LL BE ALREADY DEAD !
NARUMI AND SHIROGANE WILL BE THROWN FROM THE PAGODA'S TOP IN FEW MINUTES!

HUH ?!


YOU REALLY WANT TO JUMP FROM THE ROOF ?!
ARE YOU SURE ?!
IF WE DON'T SUCCEED REMEMBER THAT IT WAS YOUR IDEA
AND DON'T HATE ME
YES, IT'S DRACHMA'S BIG ENERGY TO GATHER SPEED!
16

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Edited by vensu
Checked by Spl

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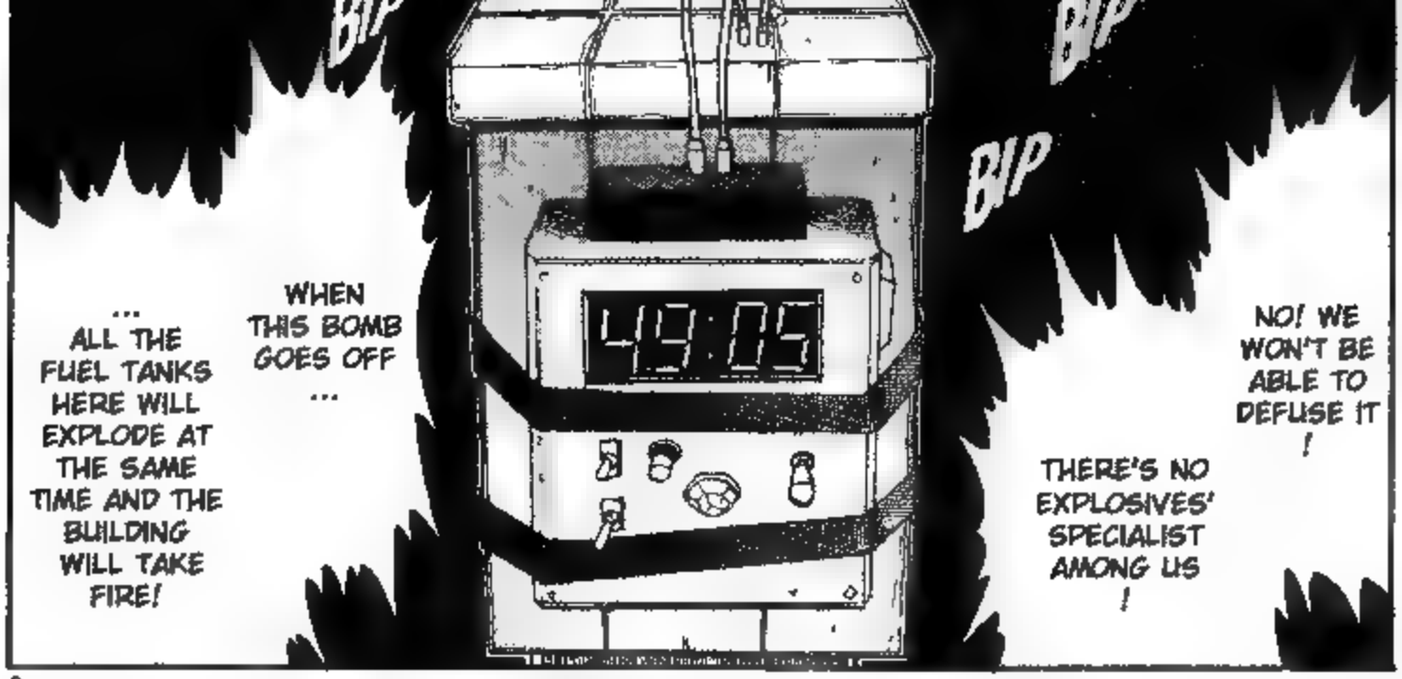
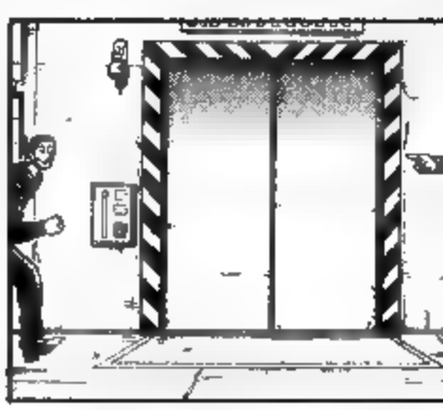
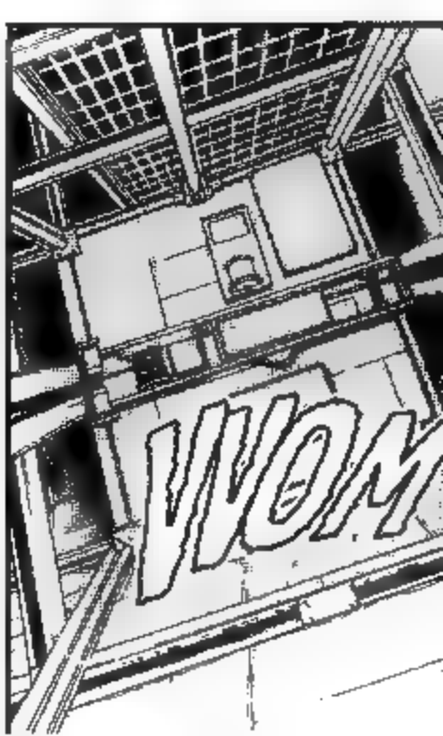

BIP
BIP
BIP
49:05
...
ALL THE FUEL TANKS HERE WILL EXPLODE AT THE SAME TIME AND THE BUILDING WILL TAKE FIRE!
WHEN THIS BOMB GOES OFF
...
NO! WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DEFUSE IT !
THERE'S NO EXPLOSIVES' SPECIALIST AMONG US !

2

WE HAVE TO WARN MR. SAIGA IMMEDIATELY !
WE MUST RUN AWAY !
OVER HERE!
COME!

I HEARD THEY'VE CAUSED A RUCKUS OUTSIDE ...




WOM

... AND WE GO AWAY !
NEVERMIND! WE TAKE CARE OF THEM...
THEY'RE UNDER CONTROL, BUT THERE'S THE BOMB LEFT !
THE YOUNG MAN DO CHINESE BOXING, AND THE MISS IS A PUPPET MASTER, IS THAT RIGHT ?

SORRY, BUT I'LL NEVER GIVE UP !
I CAME HERE WITH STRONG DETERMINATION !

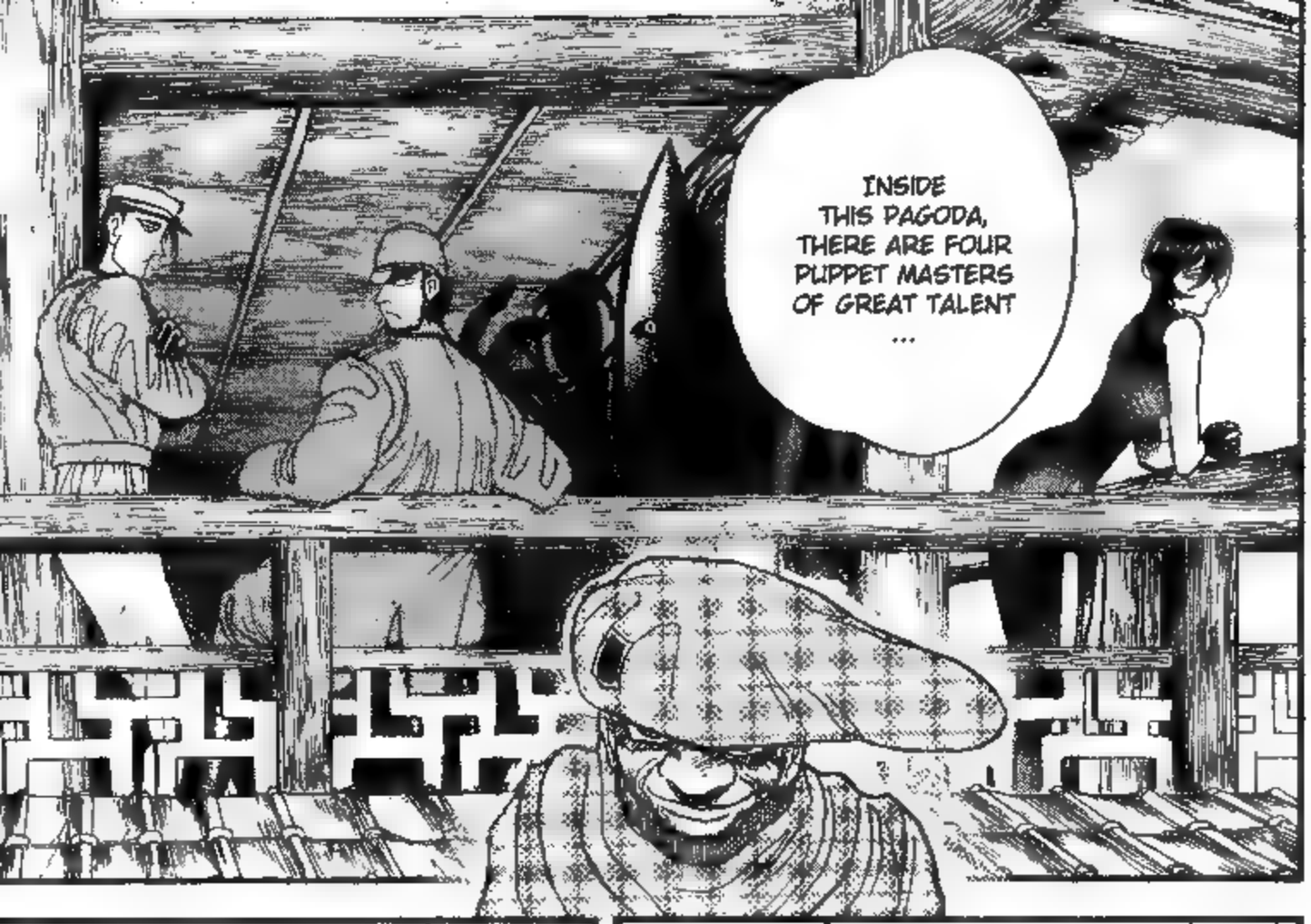
BLEE EEEH !
YOU HEARD? .. YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ANYMORE !

HE HE HE ... DO YOU AT LEAST KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING?

MY FRIEND TOO !
OH, I WAS FORGET-TING!
GO

BECAUSE OF THE TIME IT TAKES TO GO UP, WE'RE GOING TO THE TOP
YOU'VE TAKEN US HOSTAGE SO THAT YOU COULD MAKE THE YOUNG MASTER SUBMIT TO ALL THE CONDITIONS OF HIS UNCLE... AND NOW, YOU PLAN TO GET RID OF US BY THROWING US FROM THIS PAGODA'S ROOF

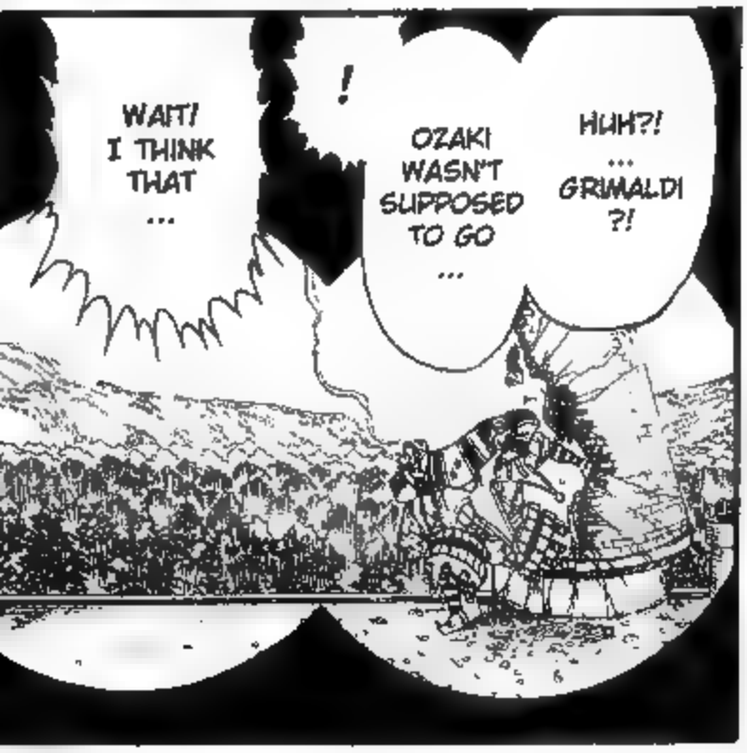
HA HA HA !
BRAVO! ... ARE YOU FRIGHTENED ?
I DON'T CARE ...
WHAT?! BUT...
R-R-R-R-H!
... I'LL CRUSH YOU LIKE INSECTS !!
IF YOU'VE HURT HIM ...
ON THE OTHER HAND, I HOPE THAT MASARU'S UNHARMED !
... ...
BRAGGING'S USELESS!


INSIDE THIS PAGODA, THERE ARE FOUR PUPPET MASTERS OF GREAT TALENT ...

BOOM
I DON'T KNOW ... ALL THE ASSASSINS CLAN'S MEN HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED ...
AND WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO FIGHT THEM !

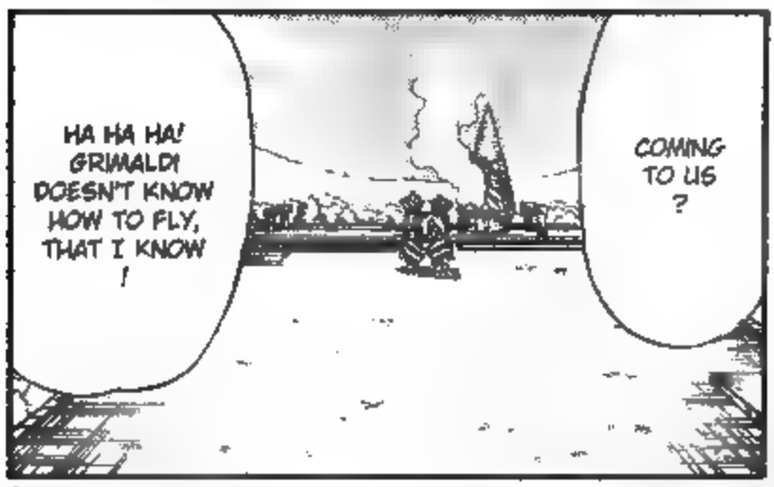
WHY DID THEY MAKE FOUR OF US GO UP HERE ?!
I'M BORED !

5


WAIT! I THINK THAT ...
!
OZAKI WASN'T SUPPOSED TO GO ...
HUH?! ... GRIMALDI ?!

GIVE ME THE BINOCULARS !
LOOK! THE SECURITY CP ROOF HAS EXPLODED !

IT'S ASHIHANA OF THE ASSASSINS CLAN !!
AND MASARU SAIGA'S WITH HIM !


HA HA HA! GRIMALDI DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO FLY, THAT I KNOW !
COMING TO US ?

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO ?

SCHLAC

... THAT THEY'RE CRAZY ENOUGH TO JUMP TO HERE!!
UNLESS ...

YOU WANT US TO DASH BEFORE JUMPING TO THAT PAGODA ?!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE ! WE CAN'T DO IT !
BUT.. MY UNCLE'S HENCHMEN WILL SOON DROP NARUMI AND SHIROGANE !
WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO GO DOWN THIS BUILDING AND TO GO UP TO THE PAGODA'S TOP!

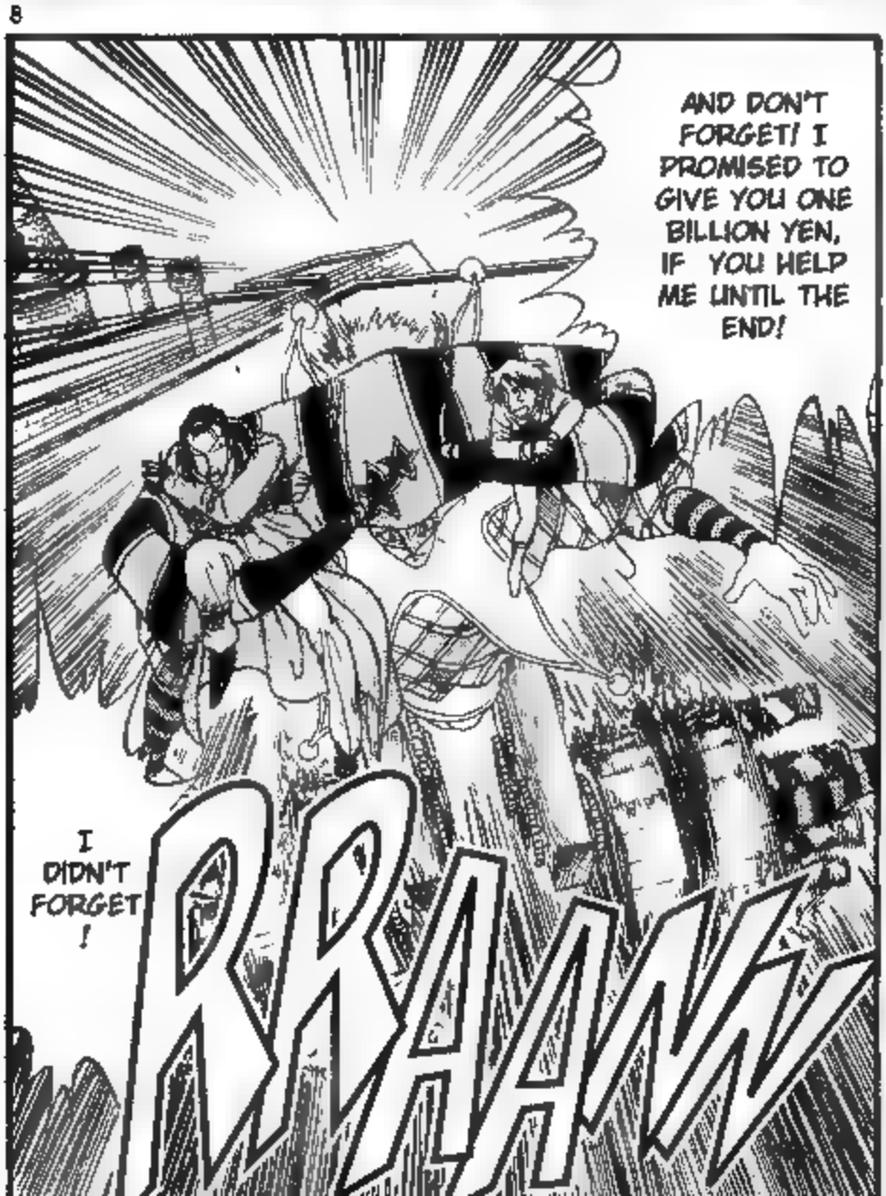
I'M THE ONE CONTROLLING THIS PUPPET, BRAT
YOU'VE HIRED MY SERVICES, BUT I DON'T WANT TO LOSE MY LIFE BY CHALLENGING MYSELF TO SOMETHING IMPOSSIBLE TO DO!
DON'T WORRY! IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE
BY DASHING ON THE ROOF'S DIAGONAL, AT THE MAXIMUM SPEED
.. WE'LL BE ABLE TO JUMP ABOUT FIFTEEN METERS

7

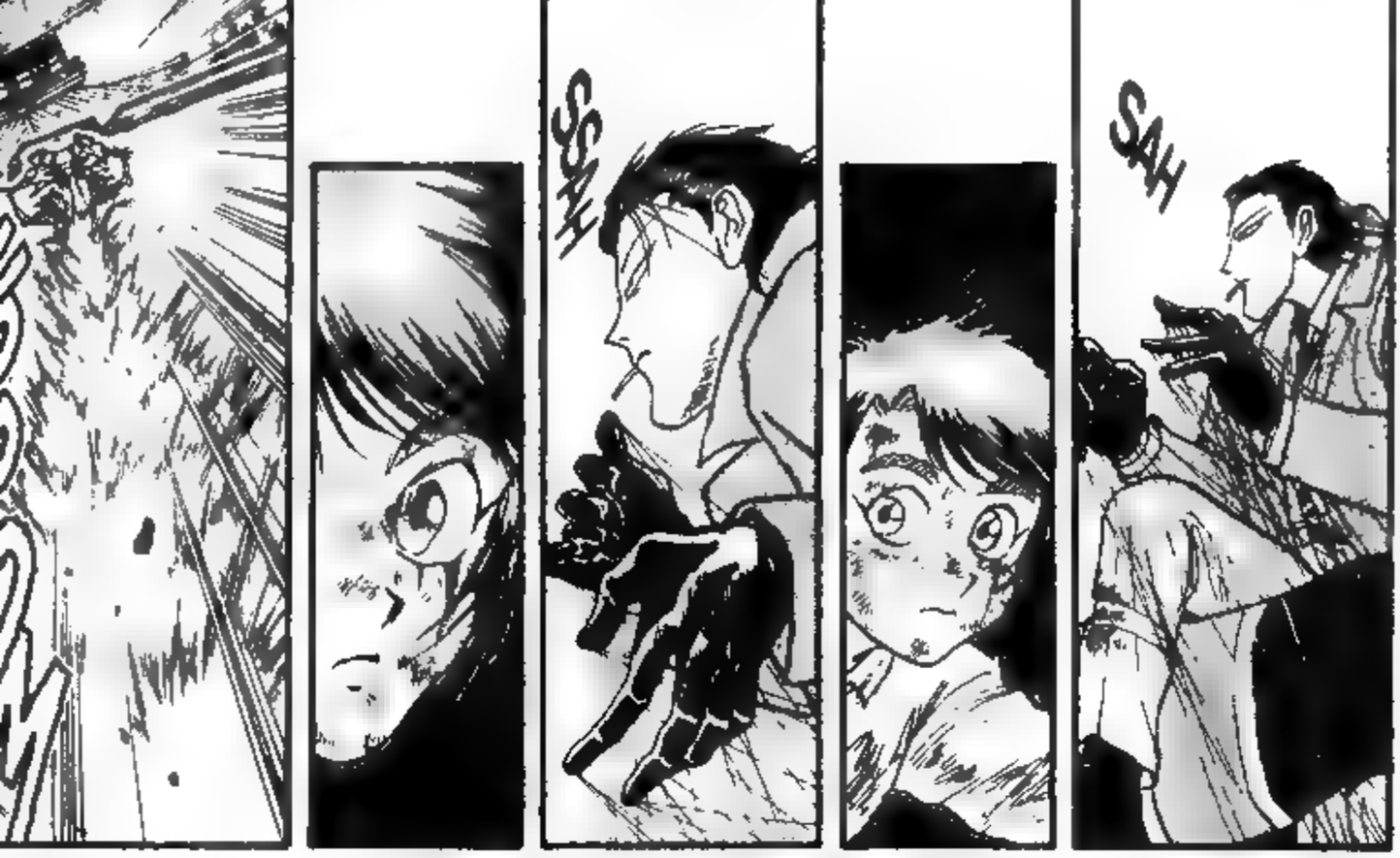
YOU'VE CALCULATED THAT BELOW ...
... QUIETLY, WHILE WE WERE FIGHTING ?!
YES ..
WHAT A BRAT !
AND IF HE IS RIGHT ?
NO! I CAN'T MAKE A CARELESS DECISION !
GE
AND ...

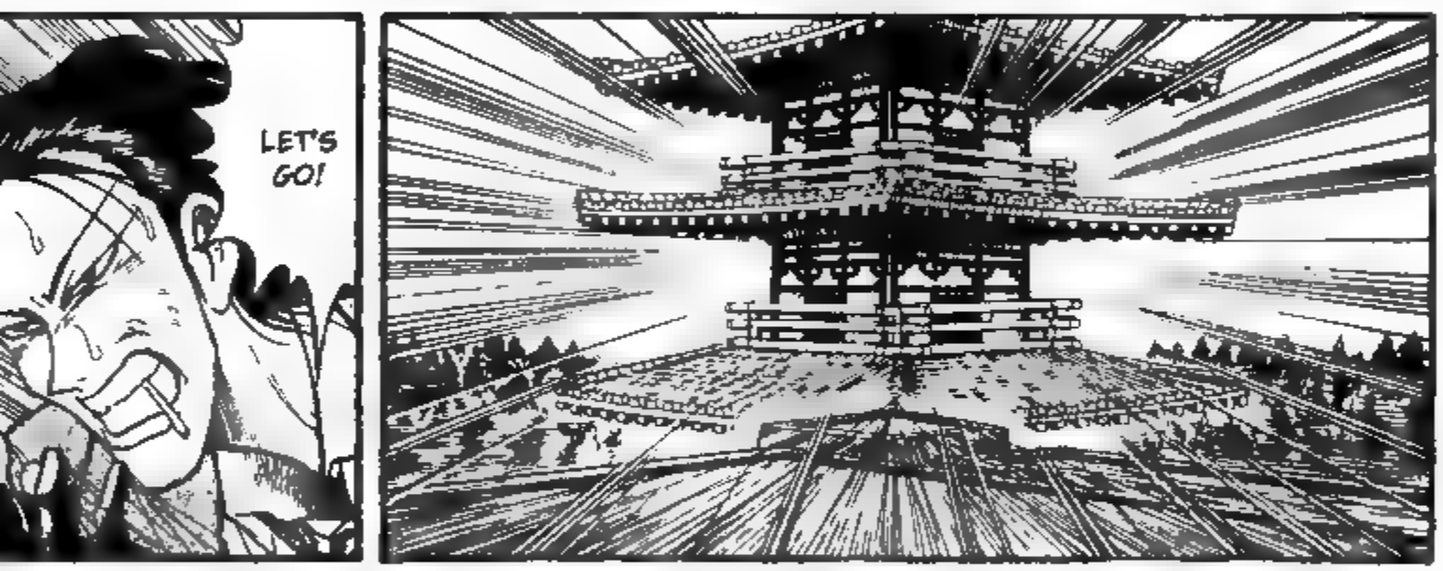
... AS A PUPPET MASTER !
I TRUST YOUR TALENT SO MUCH ...
YOU KNOW . .

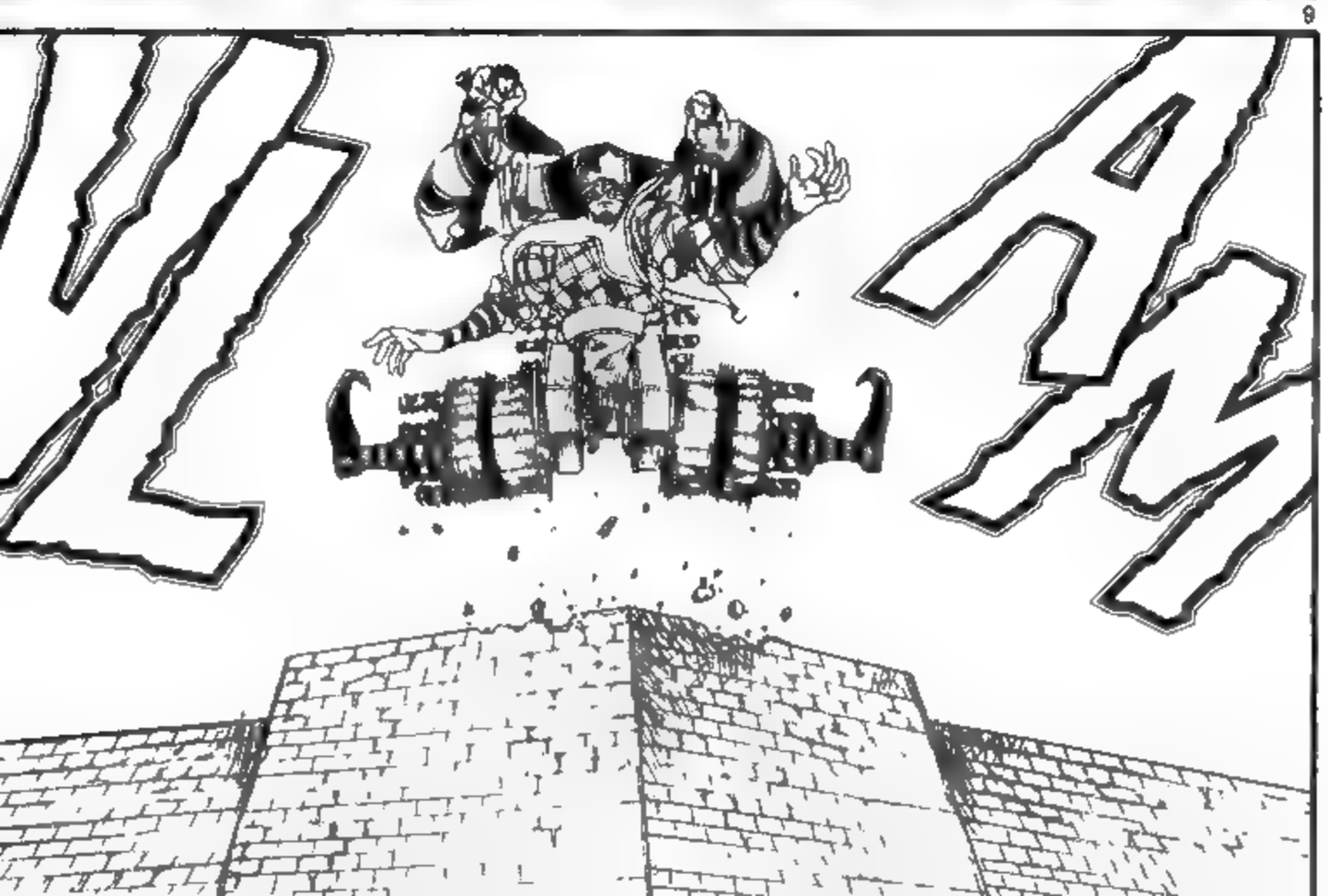
HE HE ...


AND DON'T FORGET! I PROMISED TO GIVE YOU ONE BILLION YEN, IF YOU HELP ME UNTIL THE END!
I DIDN'T FORGET !
RRAAW

.. YOU'RE TOO MUCH, BRAT!
I'LL SHOW YOU THAT YOU'RE RIGHT TO BELIEVE IN MY TALENT !
URRROM


SSH
SAH


LET'S GO!



THE IDIOTS! THEY'LL END UP BELOW !
HA HA! THEY'VE REALLY JUMPED !

VHHH
I CAN'T STOP OUR FALL!!
MR. ASHIHANA, USE GRIMALDI'S NECK !!
!
GOH
GOH
GOH
GOH
GOH
GOH

CRASH!!

SOOH
BRAAN!

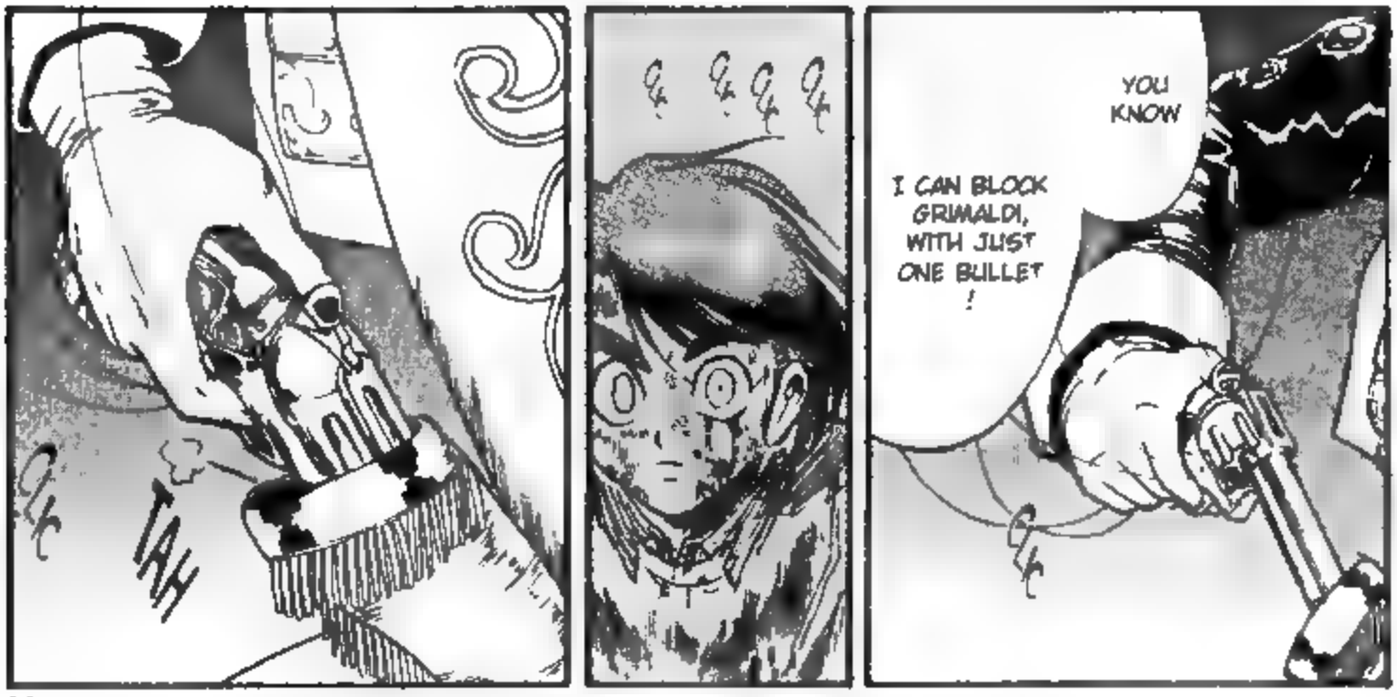
IRAM
DAN
CRAC

HE SAW IT ONCE
AND HE PERFECTLY SUCCEEDED TO REPRODUCE MY MOVE?!
I ALREADY SAW YOU DO THIS, ONCE
TELL ME, BRAT
HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO DO THAT ?!
ARAN ...

13

IT'S OKAWA AND HIS "FEATHER PISTOL" !
HEY !
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM

DOH
I WAS SO BORED HERE. WOULD YOU MIND PLAYING WITH ME A LITTLE ?
VERY BEAUTIFUL DEMONSTRATION ASHIHANA !


TAH
YOU KNOW
I CAN BLOCK GRIMALDI, WITH JUST ONE BULLET !

BUT ..
... YES !
HMM
LISTEN TO ME, BRAT ... WE'RE AT A DISADVANTAGE. GRIMALDI HASN'T ANY WEAPON ...
BUT WHATEVER, I'LL WIN !
HA HA! ... DUELS, IT'S YOUR HOBBY !

AT MY SIGNAL, MAKE HIM ADVANCE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?
HE'S VERY FAST ...
YOU'RE CHICKENING OUT?
SO, ASHIHANA ?!

YOU WANT TO SHOOT SOMEONE, THEN SHOOT ME !
SHUT UP, YOU STUPID !
DAH
THERE'S CERTAINLY NARUMI AND SHIROGANE INSIDE
THE ELEVATOR GOES UP !
I HAVE TO SAVE THEM !
VVVVV
B1 1 2 3

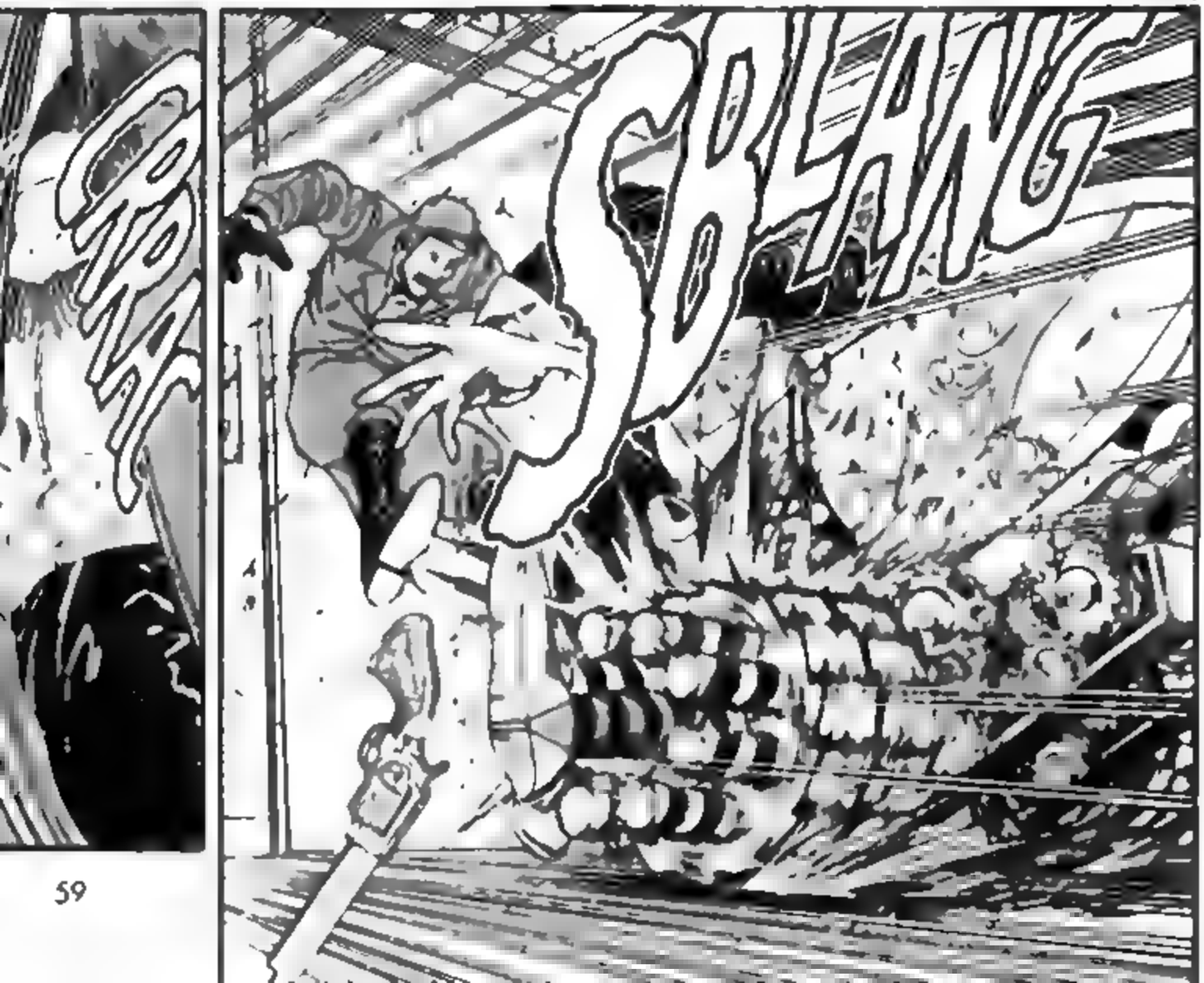
SSH
VERY WELL! LET'S FIGHT, BRAT!
YOU'RE CHALLENGING ME?
Akihiko!
WOOH!
NOW, MR. AKIHIKO,
CLASH

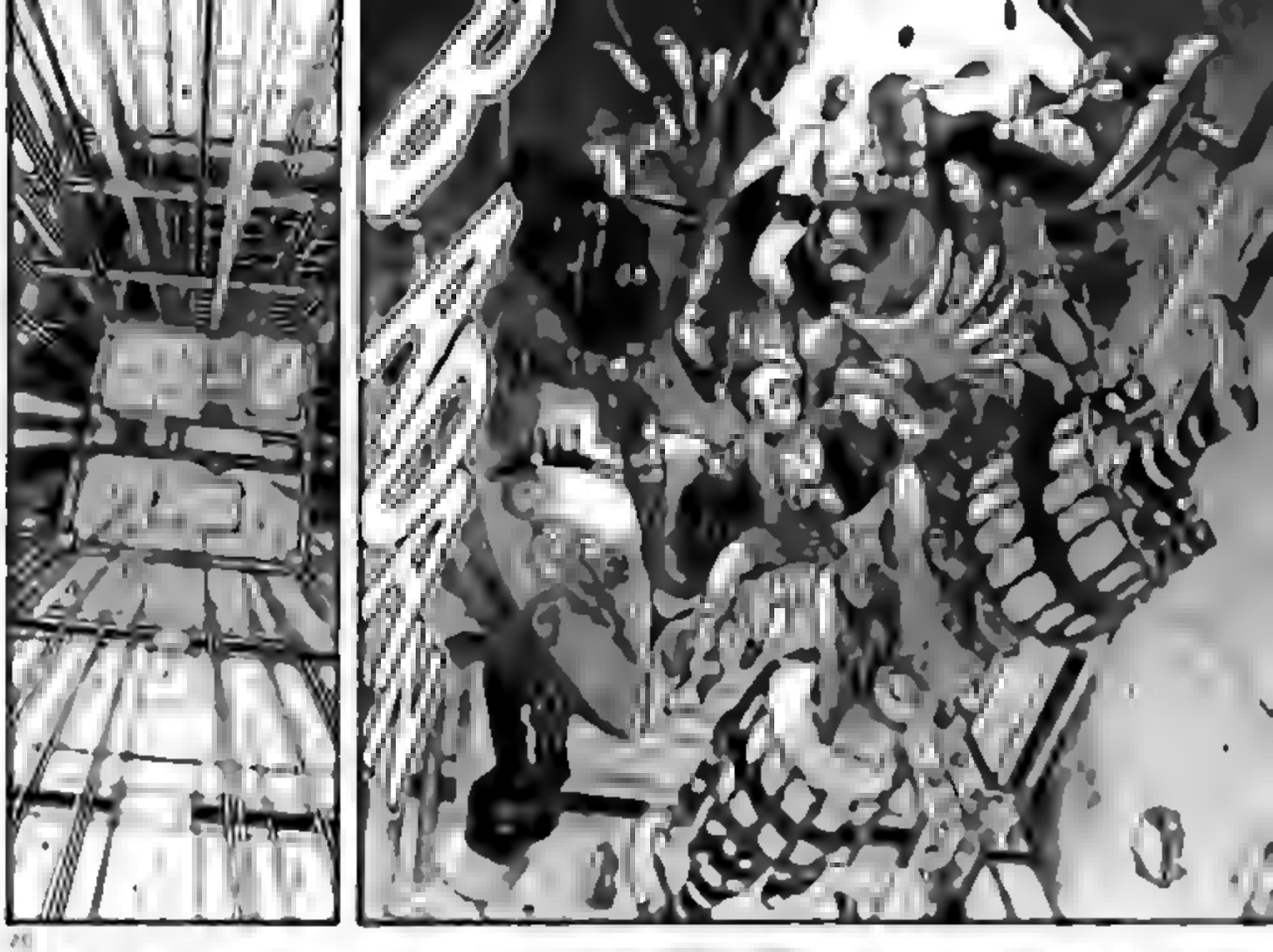
KRAHOM
YOU MADE US FALL OVER BACKWARD, BRAT !
ZZAAHH
GO FORWARD !
BAM BAM BAM BAM
YOU DID IT JUST TO MAKE ME MISS MY FIRST BULLET?!
...
NEVERTHELESS, IT WON'T PREVENT ME FROM GETTING YOU TWO!!

HOW DID YOU KNOW WHEN HE WOULD SHOOT ?
THANKS TO THE NOISE !
BRAAAMMM

STRAIGHT, MR. ASHIHANA !
HE WAS ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON A DETAIL AS NEGLIGIBLE AS THIS DESPITE THE VERY TENSE ATMOSPHERE ?!
TO THE NOISE?!
OF WHAT?! HIS PUPPET ?!

NOOO OOOO !!
OK!
BOOOM


SPIN
SBLANG



SBI
ANG

ACT 1: MASARU

CHAPTER TWENTY ONE :

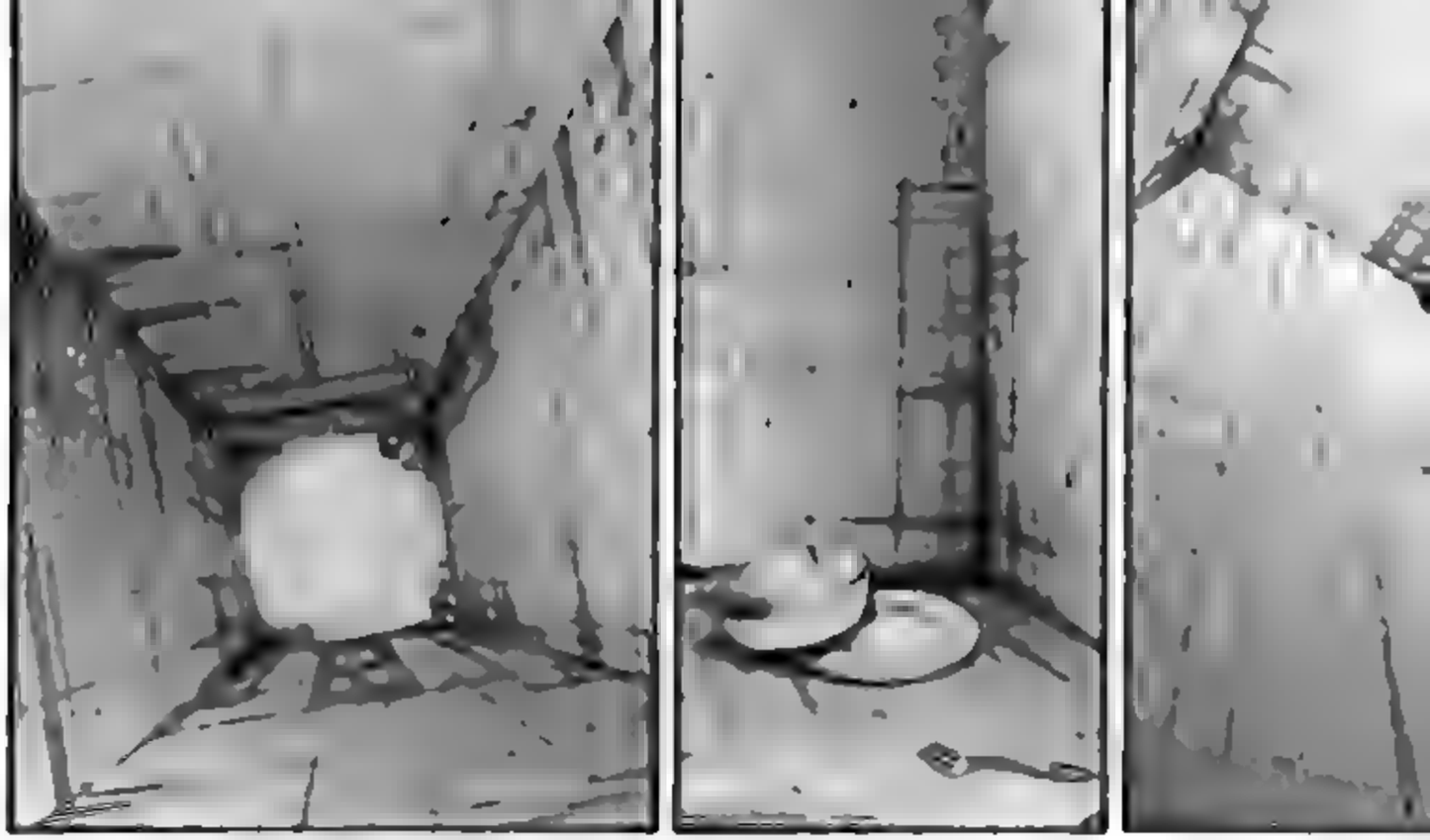
"THE FIVE FLOORS PAGODA"

BLOW

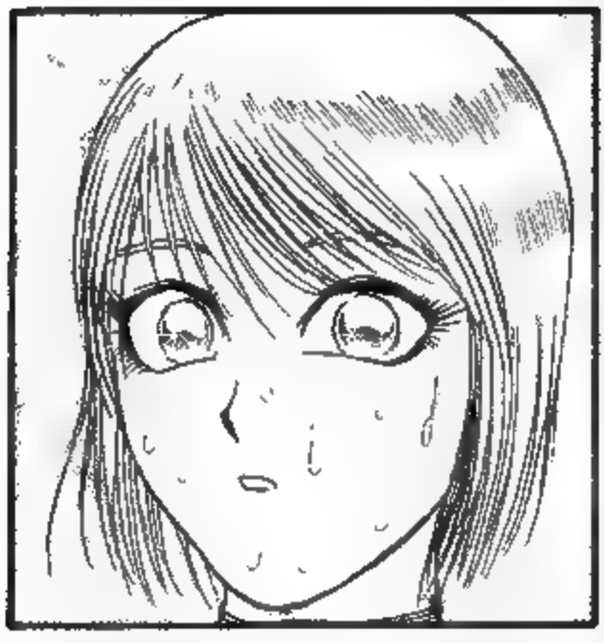
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON? THE ELEVATOR SUDDENLY STOPPED!
IT'S NOT NORMAL
CLAC

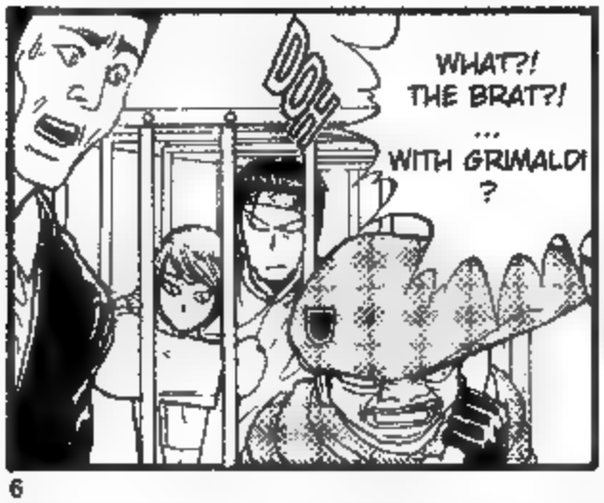
THE LIGHTS JUST WENT OUT!

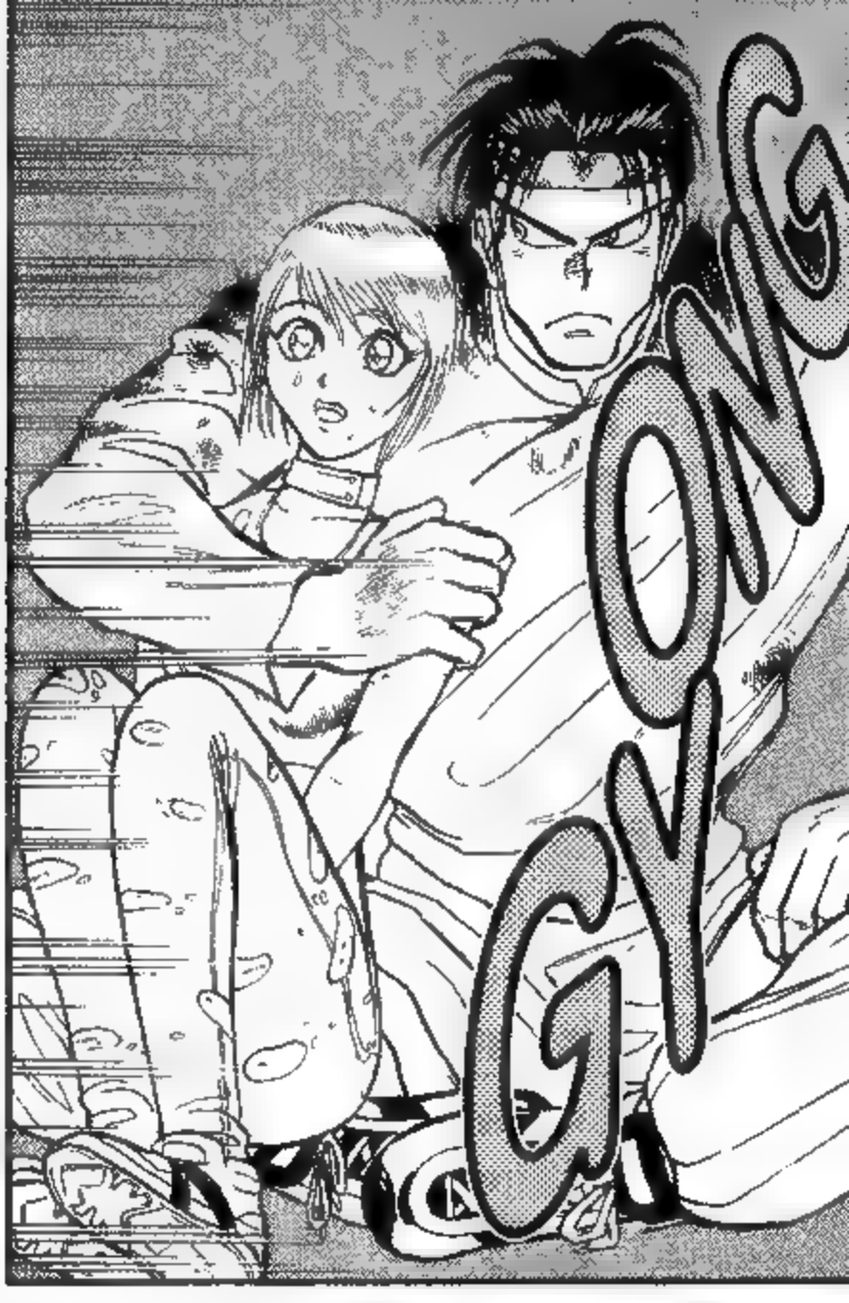
WE'RE DEFINITELY NOT LUCKY ...
IS THERE SOMEONE ?!
AND THEORITICALLY, WE'LL BE ABLE TO LEAVE ONLY WHEN THESE TWO ARE THROWN FROM THE TOP OF THE PAGODA!
I REMIND YOU THAT A BOMB IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE !
WE CAN'T WAIT !
BOM
BOM
GHH
HH
SHIROGANE ... WHAT'S HAPPENING ?!
BRR
IT'S NOT A REASON TO GET EXCITED LIKE THAT!
HEY!
M?
MEMORIES ARE COMING BACK TO ME ..
HUH?
I...
I'VE BEEN LOCKED UP IN THE DARK, IN A ROOM NOT BIGGER THAN THIS ONE HERE, WHEN I WAS LITTLE...
GHH
FHH
HH
FHH
3
BRR
HHH
FHH



I'M AFRAID ..
WHEN I'M IN THIS SAME SORT OF PLACE !
... I'M VERY AFRAID !
GNN
EVEN WHEN I'VE BEEN TAKEN OUT OF THIS ROOM, TO ALSO TEACH ME HOW TO CONTROL PUPPETS ...
VERY OFTEN, I IMAGINED IN A HALF-DREAM, A LITTLE OPENING ...
... THIS FEAR REMAINED DEEP WITHIN ME ...
AND WRINKLED AND DRY HANDS ...
WHICH WERE CONTROLLING MY OWN BODY !




WHAT?! THE BRAT?! ... WITH GRIMALDI ?

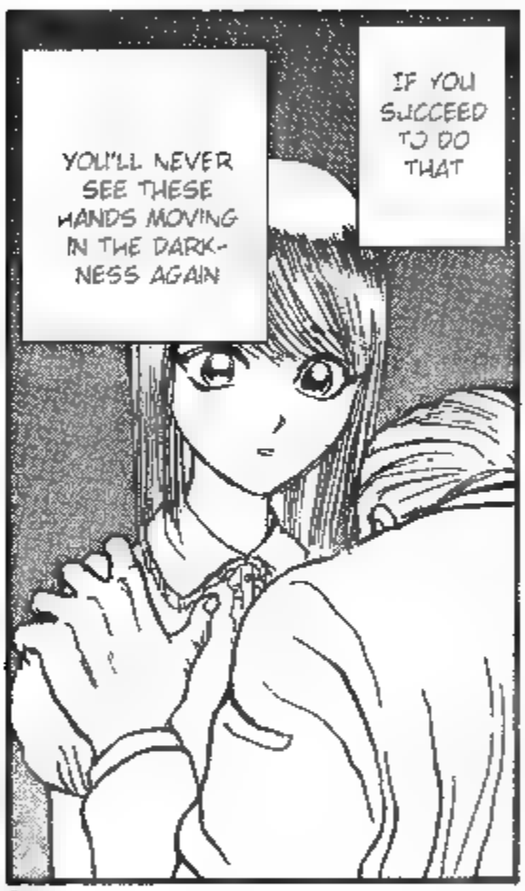

GONG

...THAT WHEN YOU SMILE WITH CONVICTION, POSITIVELY, ANY FEAR FLIES AWAY !
MY UNCLE ALWAYS SAID ...

RAISE THE CORNERS OF YOUR MOUTH AND SMILE!
SMILE, SHIROGANE ...

BELIEVE ME, IF YOU SMILE, ALL YOUR SADNESS WILL DISAPPEAR !
MAKE ME A PRETTY SMILE
SHIRLANE
SHIRLANE LIKE YOU'RE LIKE A SAD LITTLE PUPPET
YOU TOLD ME, EXCEPT FOR A FEW THINGS, WHAT SOMEONE TOLD ME A LONG TIME AGO
WHAT IS IT? I GOT SOMETHING ON MY FACE ?

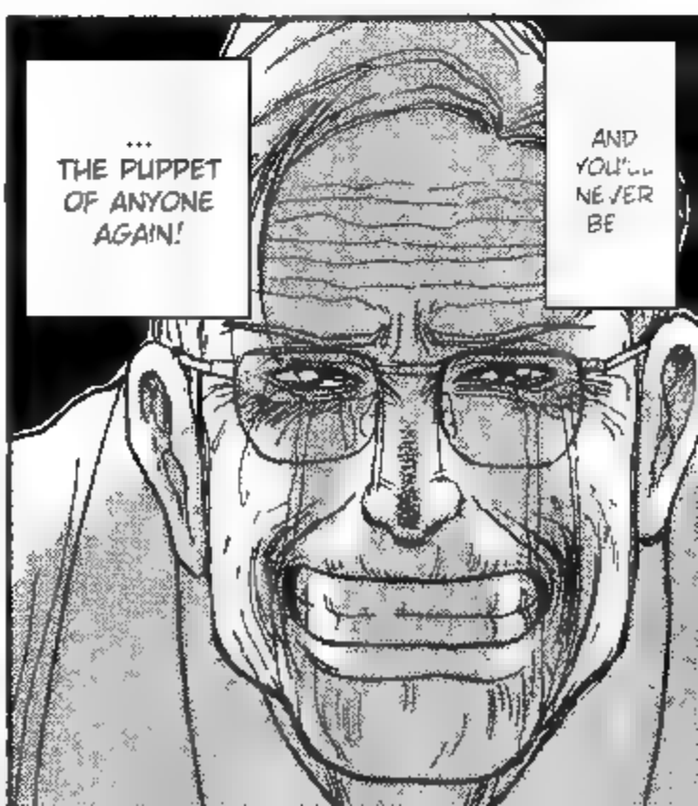
IF YOU WANT TO GET BACK YOUR LOST HUMANITY
... YOU'LL HAVE TO PROTECT A YOUNG BOY NAMED MASARU ... DO YOU UNDERSTAND?


IF YOU SUCCEED TO DO THAT
YOU'LL NEVER SEE THESE HANDS MOVING IN THE DARKNESS AGAIN

THIS MAN'S NAME WAS SHOJI SAIGA ...
HE WAS MASTER MASARU'S GRANDFATHER

YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND STRENGTH

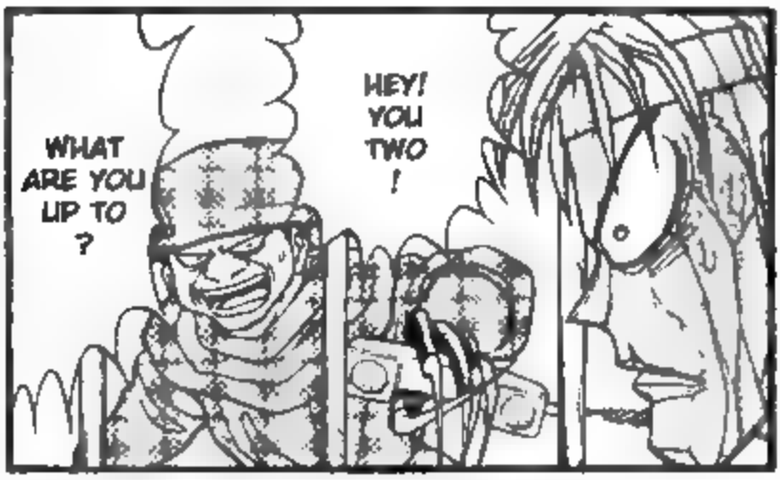
I'M SORRY ... BUT, I LIED
THAT'S WHY YOU PROTECT MASARU ?
BUT YOU SAID THAT YOU AND YOUR MOTHER HAD BEEN HELPED BY THIS MAN !


... THE PUPPET OF ANYONE AGAIN!
AND YOU'LL NEVER BE

OH,
FORGIVE ME! I DIDN'T INTEND TO ...
IT'S OK!
YOUR ARM ...
WHAT ?
IT'S STRANGE ..
BECAUSE, UNTIL THEN, I WAS ALWAYS TOLD THAT MY ONLY TASK WOULD BE TO DESTROY PUPPETS, AND THAT I HAD TO BECOME A PUPPET MYSELF FOR THIS...
BUT MR. SHOJI ASKED ME THE CONTRARY. I HAD TO BECOME "HUMAN" AGAIN ...
... I ALMOST TREMBLED WITH JOY
WHEN MR. SHOJI ASKED ME TO PROTECT MASTER MASARU ..
AND... WHAT I JUST FOUND STRANGE ...
YES?
IF I SUCCEEDED TO PROTECT, IN JAPAN, A BOY NAMED MASARU ..
.. I'D NEVER SEE THOSE HORRIBLE HANDS IN THE DARK
THAT MADE ME VERY HAPPY .
... IN ORDER TO PROTECT SOMEONE !
BUT I NEVER FORGOT WHAT MR. SHOJI SAID...
I TRAVELLED IN MANY COUNTRIES, TO DESTROY PUPPETS

... IT'S THAT THERE'S SOMETHING EVEN WARMER ...
... THAN WHAT MR. SHOJI SAID, AND THIS WONDERFUL THING... IT'S THE WARMTH ...
... AND THE GENEROSITY THAT EMANATES FROM YOUR ARM!

HUH ?!
BLANG


HEY! YOU TWO !
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO ?

SBAHAM

BLAM
...
NARUMI!
...
SHIROGANE
!
MASARU
!!
YOUNG
MASTER
!
BAM
BAM
BAM

IT'S BECAUSE OF ME THAT YOU LIVED ALL THESE HORRIBLE THINGS !!
I'M SORRY ...

...I FOUND YOU !
AT LAST ...

GO DOWN FROM THERE, BRAT !

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MASARU ?! LOOK AT ALL YOUR WOUNDS! IT'S ME WHO SHOULD BE ASHAMED TO SEE YOU LIKE THAT!
... NO !

DON'T WORRY, SHIROGANE ...
MASTER! WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU ?!

BAM
BAM
MASARU !!
... IT'S THE END OF THE FUN !
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU ARRIVED HERE, BUT ...

IT'S THE SAME FOR US... WE'RE NOT LAUGHING ANYMORE!
OUCH !!
GAH!

OR ELSE YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH ME
ASHIHANA, BASTARD! GET AWAY FROM MASARU!
MR. ASHIHANA !
RIGHT, BRAT ?
AH?
OH NO, EVERY-THING'S FINE!

BOOM
... I GOT THE FEELING THAT I CAN'T MOVE ANYMORE!
BUT... I'M GETTING A LITTLE TIRED, BRAT ...
...
HE HE... HE PROMISED ME ONE BILLION YEN!
HE'S WITH US!
HE'S AT MY SERVICE! I'M PAYING HIM TO HELP US!
BOOM
... TOTALLY SOMEONE ELSE!
WHAT A SURPRISE TO SEE YOU AGAIN LIKE THAT! WHAT'S HAPPENED OVER THERE? IT SEEMS THAT YOU'VE BECOME ..
HE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS...
...MR. ASHIHANA !
BOOM

YOUNG MASTER !
GNN!
BZ ZANG
... MM ... DO YOU THINK SO ?

BUT . IT'S THE END OF ALL THIS!
YOU SURPRISED ME TOO!

DON'T FORGET THAT THERE ARE TWO OTHER PUPPET MASTERS WHO ARE WAITING US HIGHER
EVERYTHING WILL GET BACK TO NORMAL
ZZ OOH!

YOU'LL CALM DOWN RIGHT NOW, BRAT! YOU HEAR ME ?!

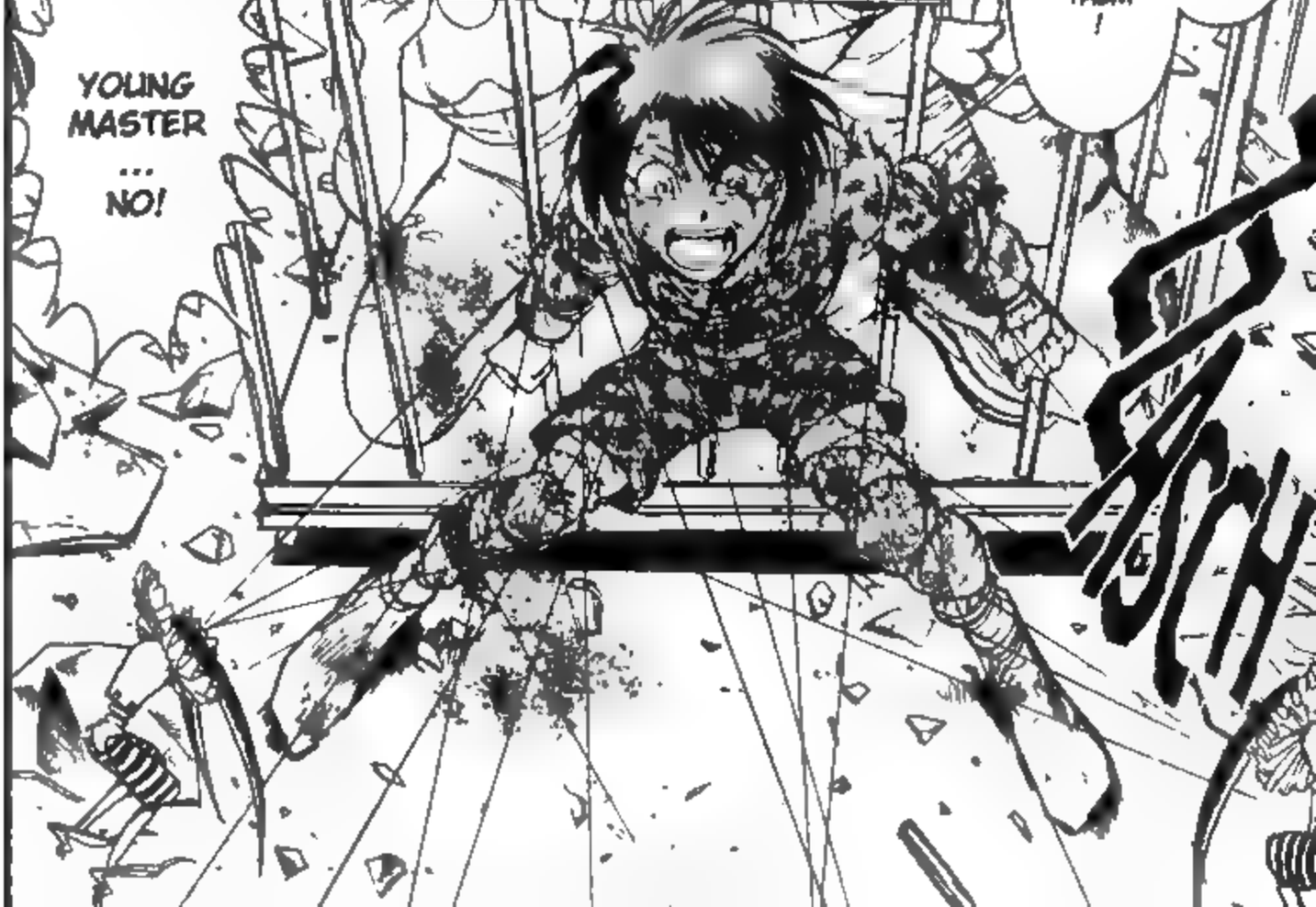
ZONG
.... NOOOO !
ZONG

NE VER !

NOW, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO LOOK AT YOUR TWO FRIENDS FALLING FROM THE PAGODA'S TOP!
SSH

AND BY MY FAULT
...
THEY'VE BEEN INJURED
NARUMI AND SHIROGANE ...
CAME TO SAVE ME
YOUNG MASTER !

... YES !
GRH
YOU THINK YOU CAN HELP THEM ?!
HI HI HI ... SO WHAT, BRAT?!

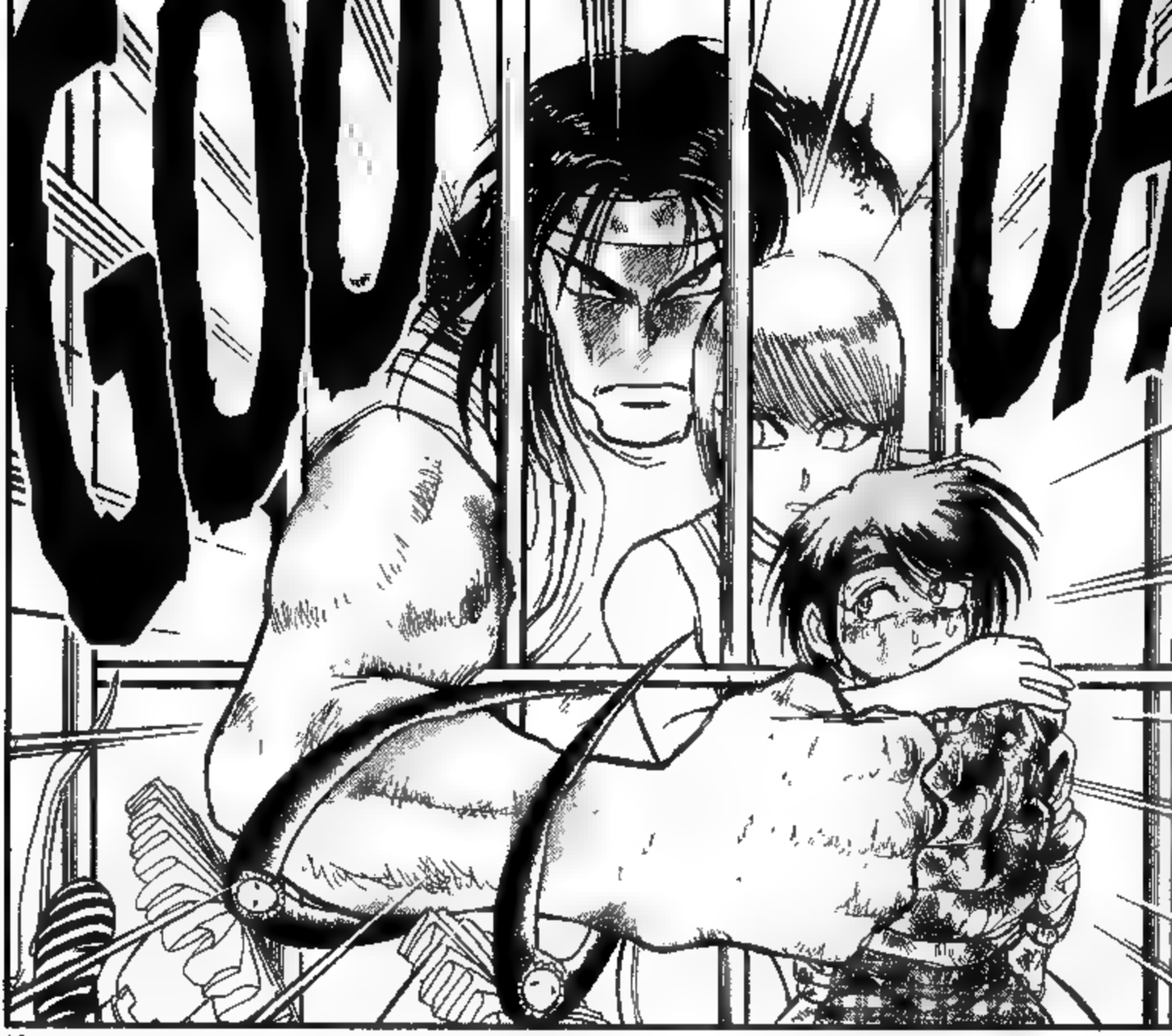

STOP, MASARU !!
YOUNG MASTER ... NO!
THIS TIME ... IT'S ME WHO'LL SAVE THEM !
SCH

... I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'D CONTINUE TO ACT SO PROUD, ONCE I'VE CUT YOUR ARM
HOWEVER ...
HA HA! .. HOW COURAGEOUS! YOU STILL HAVE ENERGY TO SPARE!
CLIC CLIC

CUT MY ARM! ... BUT DON'T TOUCH THE YOUNG MASTER! DO YOU HEAR ME?!!
NOOO!
AH
DA
... STOP IT!

THEN I'LL CUT YOUR TWO ARMS AT THE SAME TIME !

HE HE ... YOU GOT A VERY DEVOTED BODYGUARD, BRAT.
SHIRO-GANE ...
CLIC CLIC


GOU
UP

SBLING

MY DUCK DUMMY AREN'T ABLE TO ...
WHAA AAT?!
CLIC CLIC

MY BOY
YOU CAN REST
YOU BECAME STRONG AGAIN.
BRAVO

SHIROGANE AND ME
DAN DAN
FROM NOW ON

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING !!
BAM

RRRRAA!
WITH ONLY HIS ARM'S STRENGTH!
IMPOS-SIBLE! HE BENDS THE BARS
GOO

DIN G

20

SPA
AF

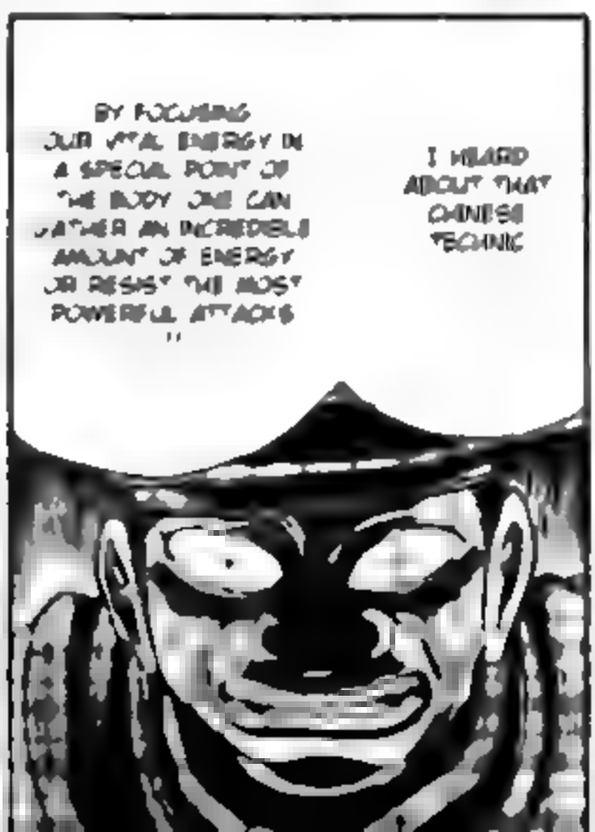
ACT 1 : MASARU
CHAPTER 22 :
"EXPLOSION"

GHH
GH
CRAC
CLAC
CLANG
ZAAAANN

... ARE OPENING !!
BLANG
KANG
THE BARS
GONG
CLANG

2

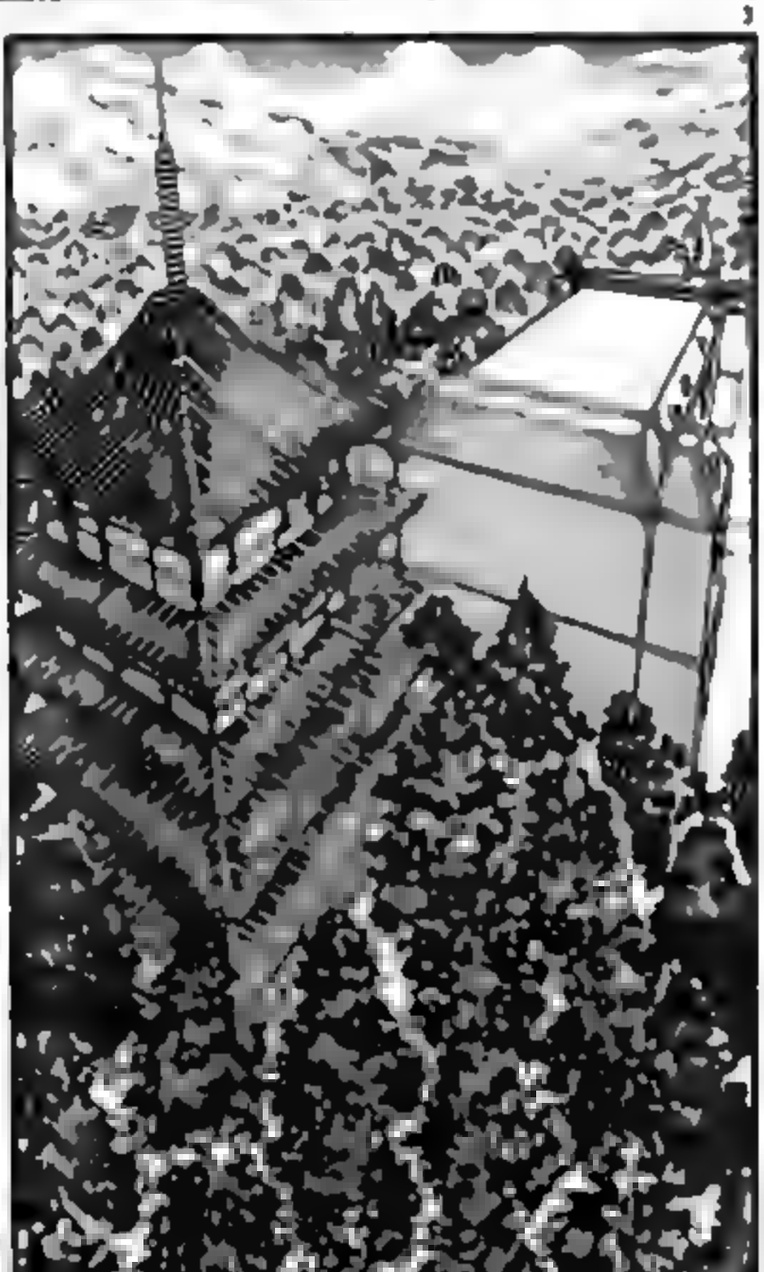
IT'S CALLED "HARD CHI-KONG" !
YEAH
LOOK OUT
GOO
OHH


BY FOCUSING OUR VITAL ENERGY IN A SPECIAL POINT OF THE BODY ONE CAN GATHER AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF ENERGY OR RESIST THE MOST POWERFUL ATTACKS !!
I HEARD ABOUT THAT CHINESE TECHNIC

DRAIN
HNN
!!

CLANG
CLANG

THANK YOU !!
NARUMI !
SHIROGANE !



IT'S OK ... I FINALLY FOUND YOU!
YOUNG MASTER! IT'S TERRIBLE! ...
YOUR WHOLE BODY IS INJURED !
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS ...
DUCK DUMMY !
OH
DAMN IT!
HOW ADULTS CAN DARE TO TREAT A POOR KID LIKE THAT ?!
GRRR
4

SPAT
YOU STINKY BASTARD !!
ZZAAN
CLAC

YOU.. WERE HERE WHEN MASARU WAS KIDNAPPED .
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGED TO GET OUT OF THE CAGE ...
BUT I FEEL LIKE WE'RE GONNA HAVE SOME FUN
OH OOHH! YOU LOOK PRETTY HEALTHY !

I'LL LET THEM TAKE CARE OF YOUR LITTLE GIRLFRIEND!

AND I ALREADY KICKED YOUR ASS LAST TIME
...
SO, ACCORDING TO YOUR STATE, I WON'T NEED THE OTHERS TO TEACH YOU ANOTHER LESSON!
YOU'RE RIGHT! MY NAME'S MASAMURA
DRAGON

... IT'S PRETTY RARE TO SEE TWO WOMEN PUPPET MASTERS FIGHTING EACH OTHER
YEAH! I'D REALLY ENJOY FIGHTING HER!

HAHA
HA
HM... YOU'RE WELL AWARE THAT A BOMB HAS BEEN SET IN THE BASEMENT AND THAT IT'S ABOUT TO BLOW
WHAT A JERK!
IT'LL ONLY TAKE US 10 MINUTES TO KILL YOU, TAKE THE KID AND GET OUT OF HERE!
HE THINKS WE'RE GONNA NEED MORE THAN 20 MINUTES TO KILL BOTH OF THEM !!
DID YOU HEAR THAT GUYS?!
7
YOU DID WELL TODAY !
HEHE
HAHAHAHA
SAH
MASARU ...
IS IT GONNA BE OK NARUMI ?

.. YOU'RE BRAVE !
YEAH ..
AND YOU WANTED TO SAVE BOTH OF US EVENTHOUGH YOU'RE INJURED ?!
THAT'S TRUE
AND... THERE ARE MANY OF THEM!
THERE'S A BOMB ..
YOU'RE REALLY BRAVE, YOUNG MASTER !
THAT'S RIGHT
SAH
REALLY ?!

ALL THAT'S LEFT NOW ...
IS TO KILL THEM ALL AND GO BACK HOME !
KKKRHHH
YES... THAT WON'T TAKE LONG ...

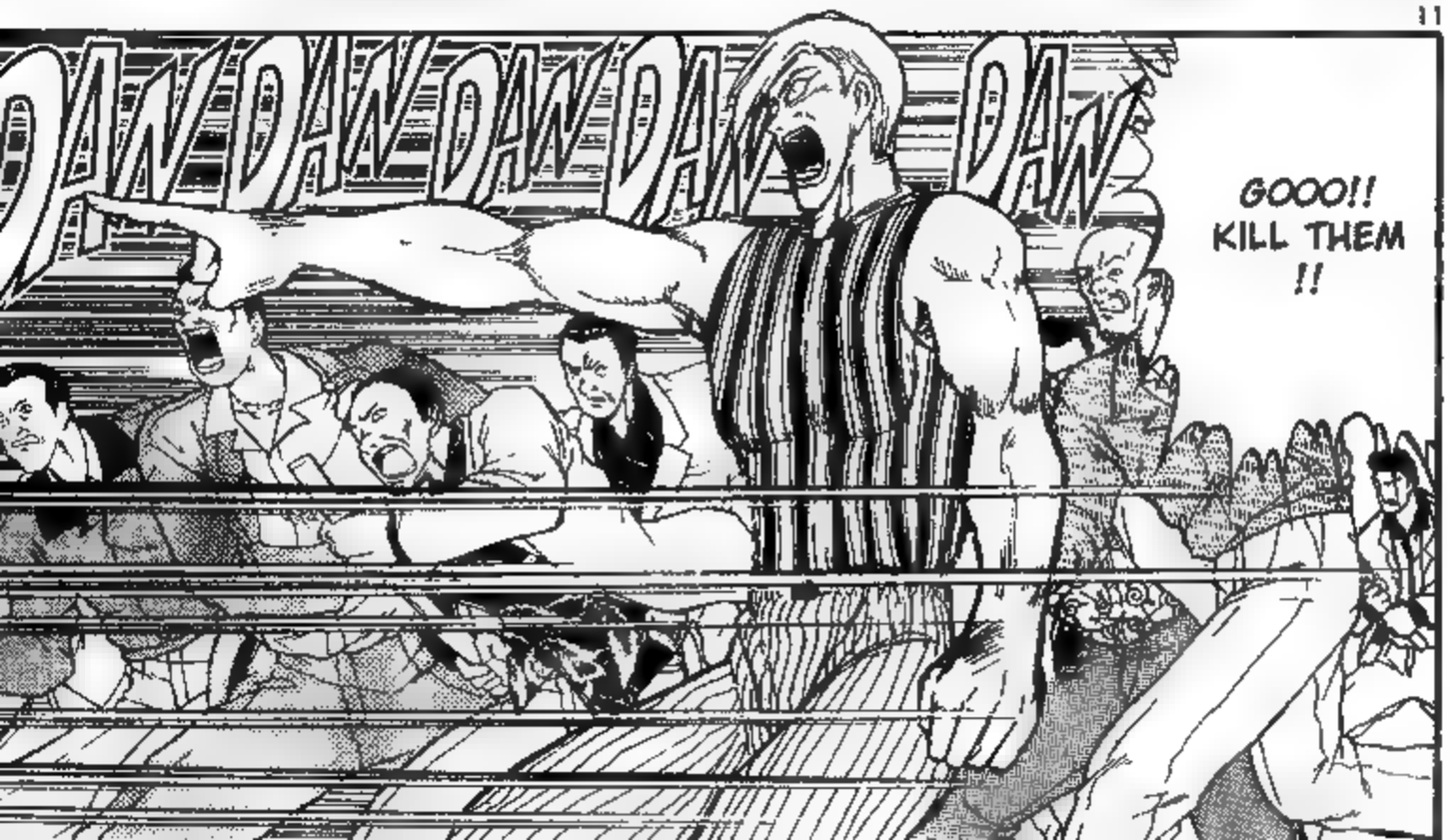
THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM ..
NARUMI, SHIROGANE! HE'S RIGHT!
YOU REALLY BELIEVE YOU CAN MAKE IT OUT OF HERE ?!
ARE YOU K DDING ?
RIGHT! BECAUSE OF US AND THE BOMB, THEY MUST BE FREAKING OUT !
INSIDE, THEY'RE CRYING OF DESPAIR.
HA HA HA ... COME ON, IT'S OBVIOUS THEY'RE JUST PRETENDING !

9

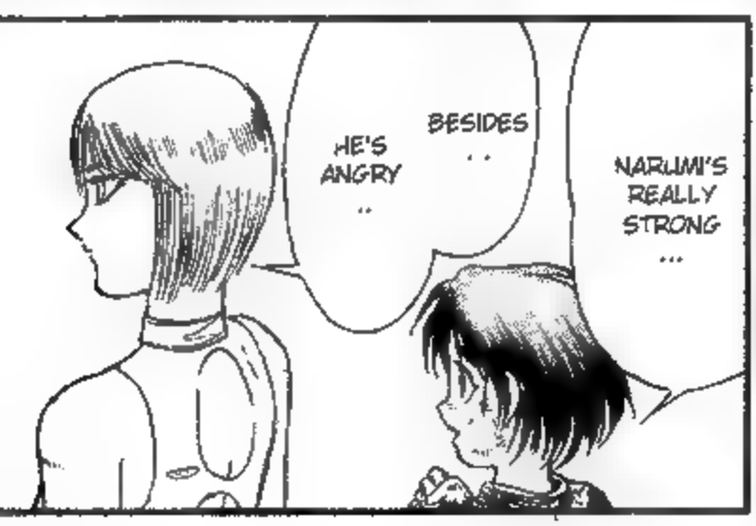
NARUMI !
HE HEEE! YOU CAN CRY IF YOU WANT! BUT EVEN IF YOU START BEGGING RIGHT NOW, WE WON'T LET YOU GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE!! ... GOT IT?!
HAHA HA HA
NARUMI MUST WANT TO CRY, BUT AS I'M HERE, HE'S ACTING TOUGH
OF COURSE !

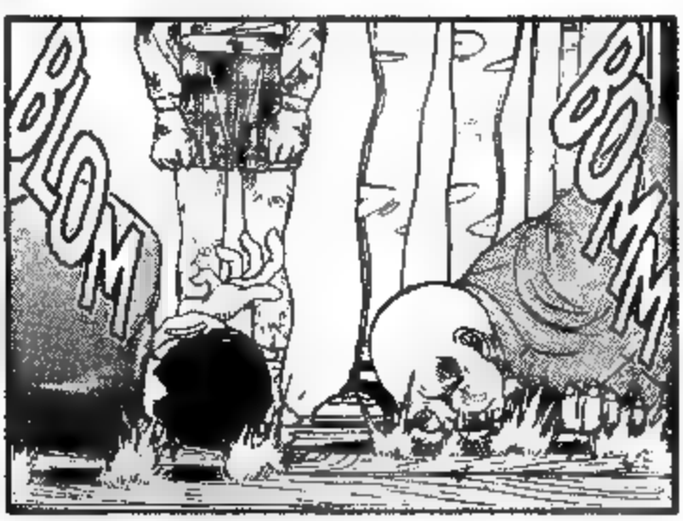
"AS LONG AS YOU CAN LAUGH ...
YOU MUST NEVER CRY!"
...
LISTEN MASAMURA
HÉ HÉE
I'M GONNA TELL YOU SOMETHING MY MASTER TAUGHT ME A LONG TIME AGO
WH ...
WHAT ?!
DAN

SEE ...
SSAH
.. IN ORDER TO HURT A LITTLE BOY ..
... MAKES ME LAUGH OUT LOUD !!
GRIN
THE FACT YOU'RE THINKING YOU CAN KILL US WITH THE HELP OF YOUR MEN


DAN DAN DAN DAN DAN
GOOO!! KILL THEM !!

BAF
SBAM
12
BO
TOK
SHIK


NARUMI'S REALLY STRONG ...
BESIDES ..
HE'S ANGRY ..


BLOM
BOM

MASTER ...
I'M DEFINITELY NOT LIKE HIM...
THAT'S AMAZING ...
I HAVE TO ADMIT IT ..

YEAH .
HIS ANGER COMES FROM HIS WILL TO HELP PEOPLE ...

HE SAW HOW YOU HAD BEEN HURT ...

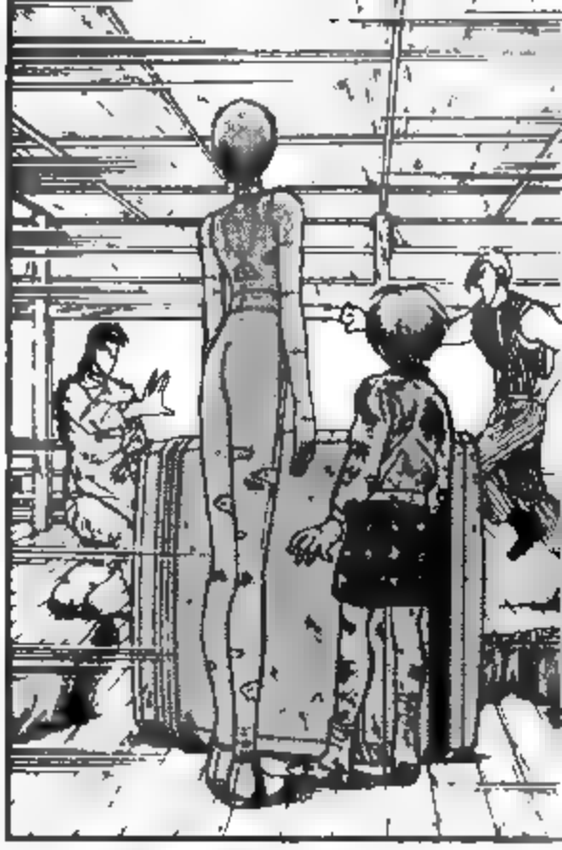
HE GETS MAD WHEN HE SEES PEOPLE BEING USED LIKE MERE OBJECTS

DON'T BE SAD SHIROGANE

I'M REALLY JEALOUS OF HIM !

BECAUSE HIS ANGER ORIGINATES FROM A GREAT GENEROSITY! IT ENABLES HIM TO SURPASS HIMSELF EVER AGAIN TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE!

GGHH!
TATATATATAA



HE DEMOLISHED ALL OUR GUYS BEFORE THEY COULD EVEN SCRATCH HIM!

HE'S NOT THE SAME GUY
AMAZING!

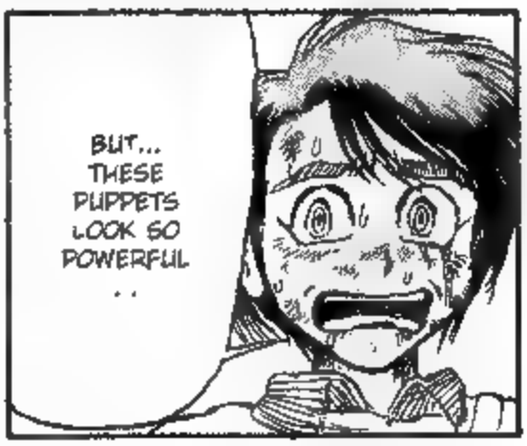
16

WE JUST DIDN'T WANT TO GET IN YOUR WAY !
DAAH
NO PROBLEM !

KANO! KANAI! GO GET THE KID !
HEY, WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR ?!

GET BACK A LITTLE BIT, MASTER
OUR TURN, PRETTY!
DOU
GAHHH

GAVE ME MY CASE BACK... SO
THAT MAN ... ASHIHANA ...


BUT... THESE PUPPETS LOOK SO POWERFUL . .

...I'M INVINCIBLE !

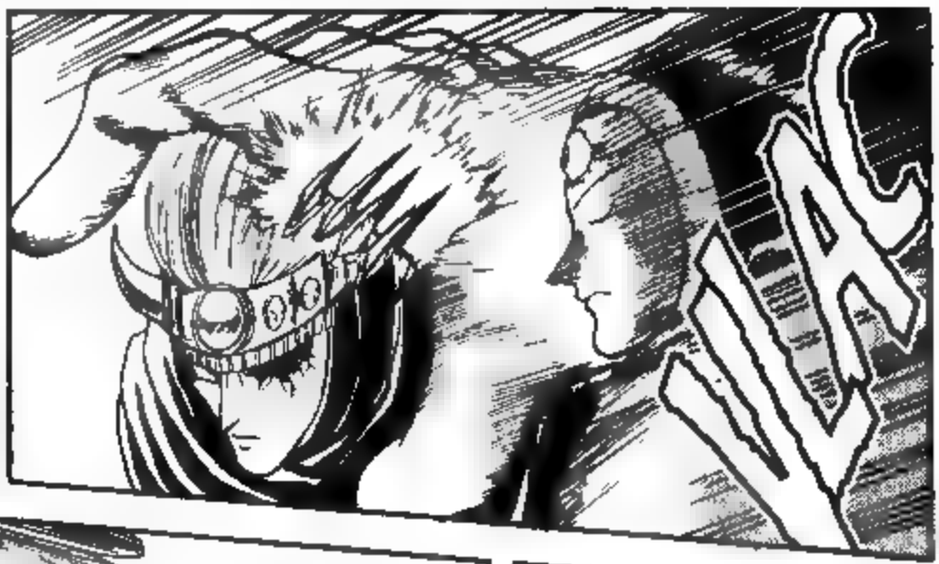
AS LONG AS I . .
CLAC

HAVE ARLEQUIN ALONG WITH ME . .
CLAC

ZAHN
ZA

BLAM

WHAT ?!!


BLAM

STYLE!!
WOW
WOW-WOW-WOW

FIGHTING ...
SSH

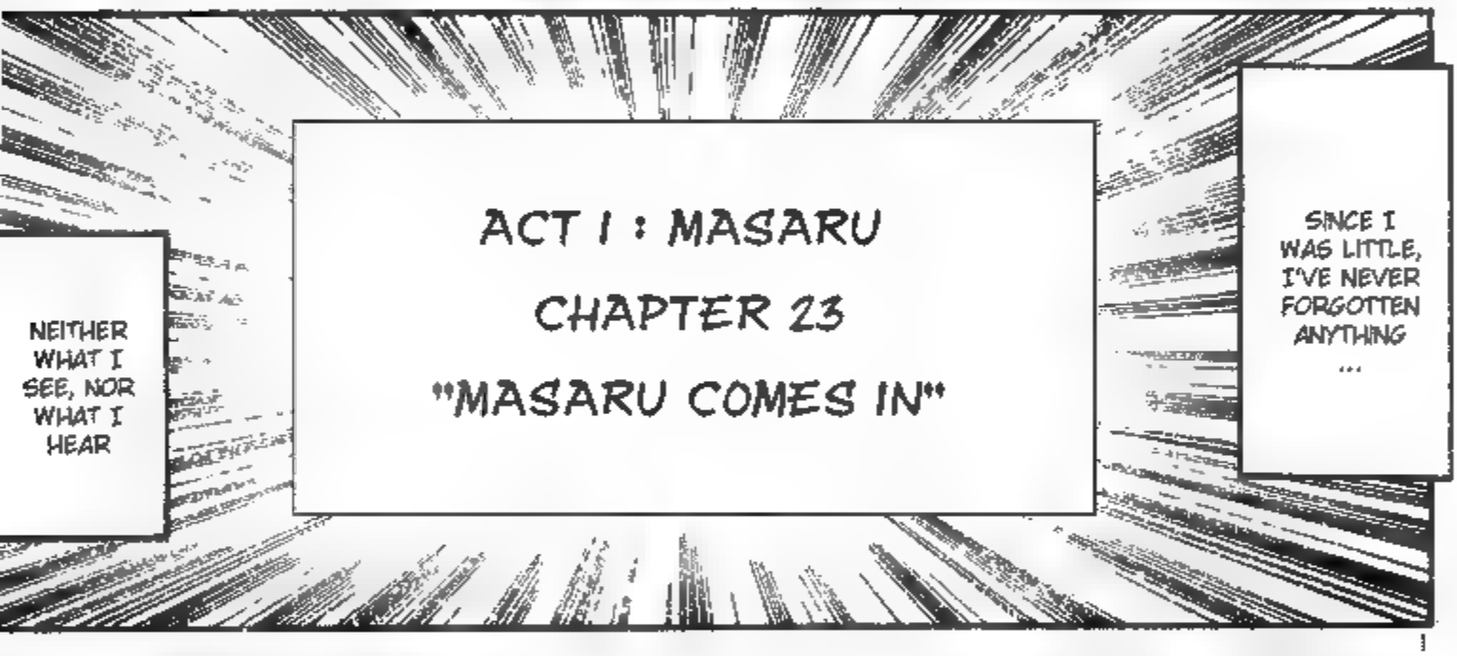
BR-AAOOHH

DOOHHH
THE BOMB MUST HAVE BLOWN UP THE WHOLE BASEMENT !

NO! DAMN IT!
WE DIDN'T MANAGE TO GET RID OF THEM IN TIME !!

IT WON'T LAST LONG UNTIL THE FIRE GETS HERE!!
ZZAA N N

PI
00:00
I'VE ALWAYS HAD AN EXCELLENT MEMORY


ACT 1 : MASARU
CHAPTER 23
"MASARU COMES IN"
NEITHER WHAT I SEE, NOR WHAT I HEAR
SINCE I WAS LITTLE, I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN ANYTHING ...

BUT ..
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Trans ated by Kayvan
Ed ted by vensu
Checked by Spl
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BLAM

BA TAW

BLAAAM

IN MY WHOLE LIFE, I'VE NEVER SEEN OR HEARD SOMETHING THAT..

AMAZING !!

WHAT CAN WE DO?

THEN

STAY CLOSE TO ME YOUNG MASTER !

THERE ARE HUGE TANKS OF COMBUSTIBLES IN THE BASEMENT! EVERYTHING'S GONNA BURN REALLY SOON !!

LET'S GET AWAY !!

TAN TAN TAN TAN

WE WERE STILL AT THE TOP OF THE PAGODA AND

DOOM

THERE ... THE BOMB HAS FINALLY EXPLODED !

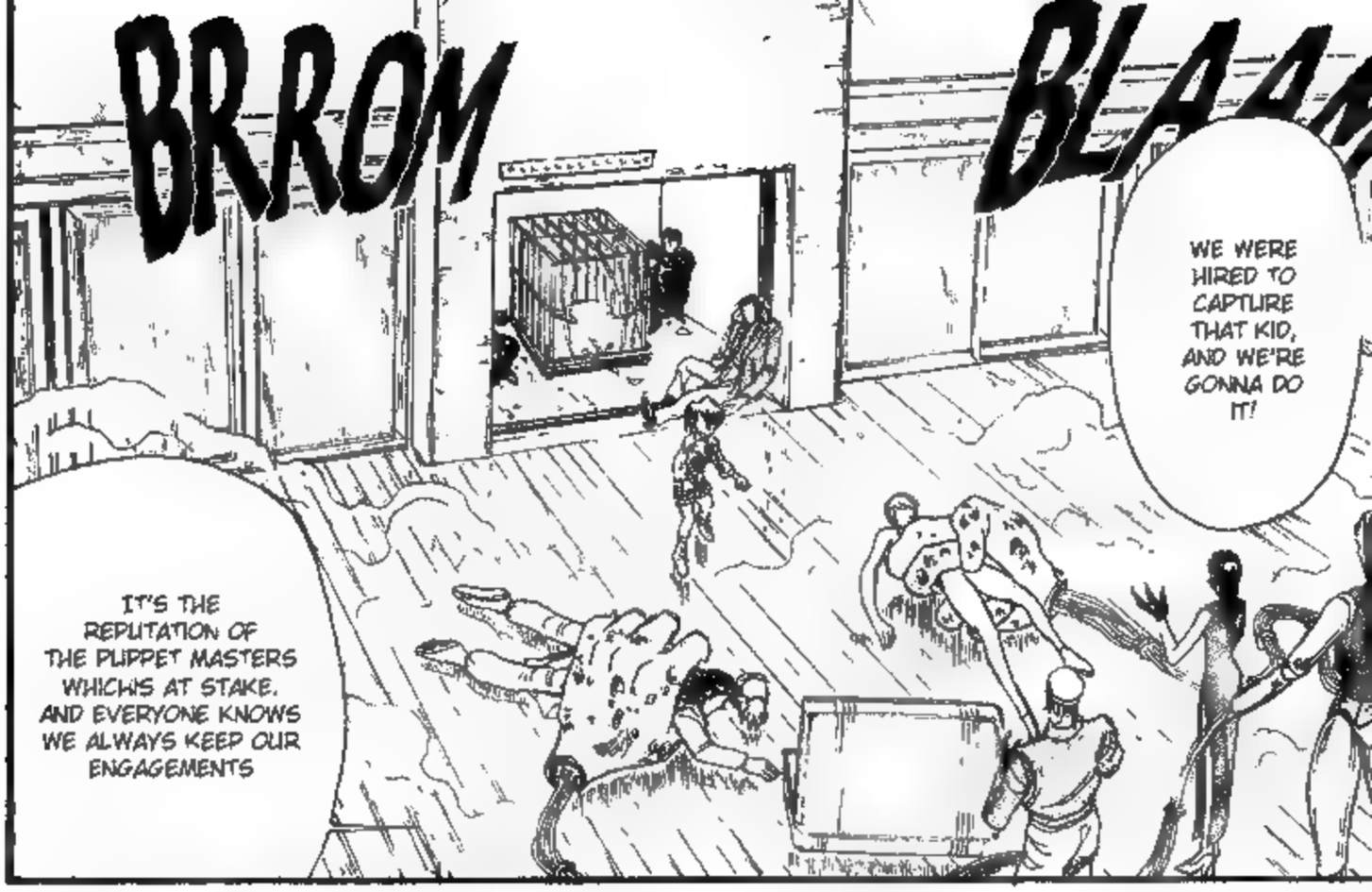
GO... OHH

BLOM
HURRY! WE HAVE TO GET AWAY TOO!
AH!
OUAAHH

MASTER! THAT MAN TRIED TO KILL YOU
YOU WANT US TO BOTHER CARRYING SUCH A GUY?!
WHAT ?!
WE MUSTN'T FORGET ASHIHANA

CLAC
CLAC
HMM ...
ZAH
AS YOU INSIST
HE HELPED ME.
I HIRED HIM, THEREFORE I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS LIFE!
GO

5
NARUMI!
SHIROGANE!
BLAM
DID YOU REALLY THINK THAT EXPLOSION WOULD PREVENT US FROM FULFILLING OUR MISSION ?!


BRROM
BLAAM
WE WERE HIRED TO CAPTURE THAT KID, AND WE'RE GONNA DO IT!
IT'S THE REPUTATION OF THE PUPPET MASTERS WHICHIS AT STAKE. AND EVERYONE KNOWS WE ALWAYS KEEP OUR ENGAGEMENTS

ZAAWW
NO ...

ARLE-QUIN!
HM!
SSAH

SCH
RIAC

SHIRO-
GANE!
SEE, THERE'S NO POINT IN GETTING NERVOUS ...
GHHHHH

GHH
GHH

LOW

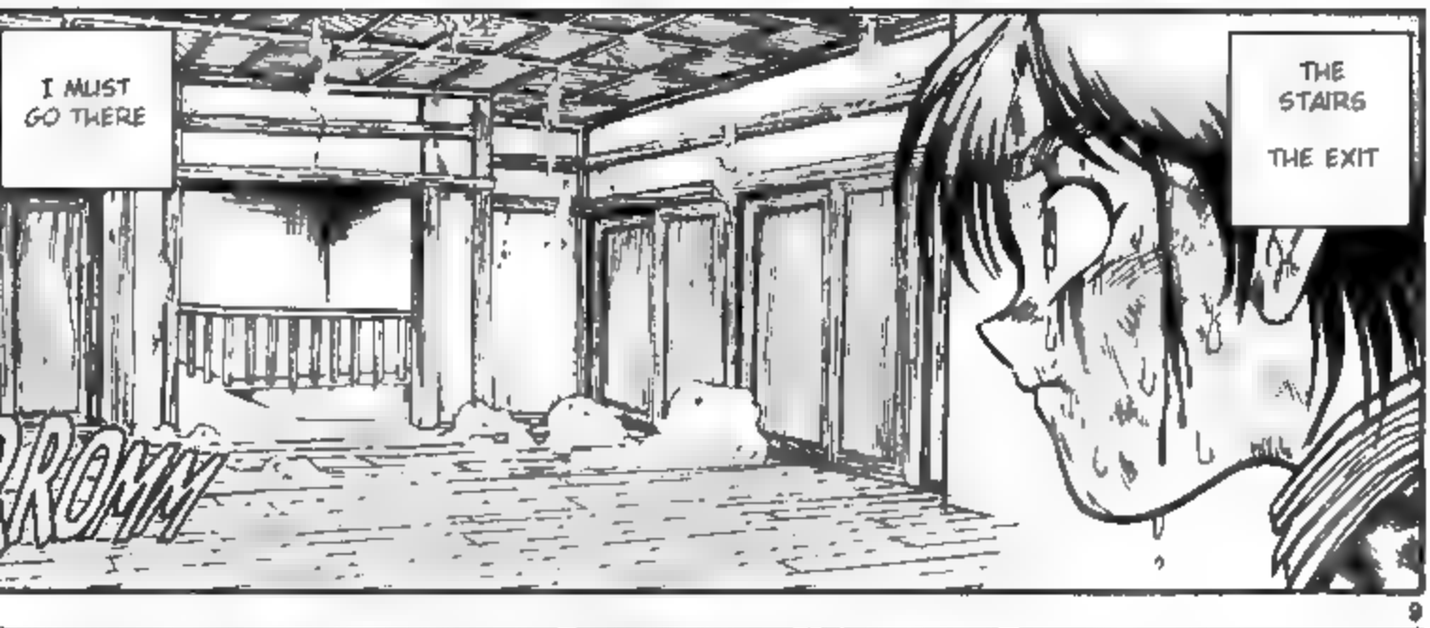
I'M KANAI ... AND MY PUPPET IS GRICELLE
HEY BRAT ... MY NAME'S KANO AND HERE'S MY PUPPET BABULO

DOOH!
BRROM
WE ARE ABLE TO GET OUT OF THIS BUILDING, EVENTHOUGH IT'S SURROUNDED BY THE FLAMES ...
DON'T BE AFRAID, IF YOU COME WITH US, YOU'LL BE SAFE

... WE'RE TAKING YOU ANYWAY !
CLIC
CLIC
YOU DON'T WANNA COME? TOO BAD ...
...!

DON'T LISTEN TO THEM MASARU! HURRY UP AND GET AWAY !!

HURRY UP!
YOU HAVE TO GO !!
GET AWAY, MASTER !


I MUST GO THERE
THE STAIRS
THE EXIT
KROMM

BUT NARUMI AND SHIROGANE ARE GONNA STAY HERE
AND EVERY-THING'S GOING TO
I HAVE TO GO

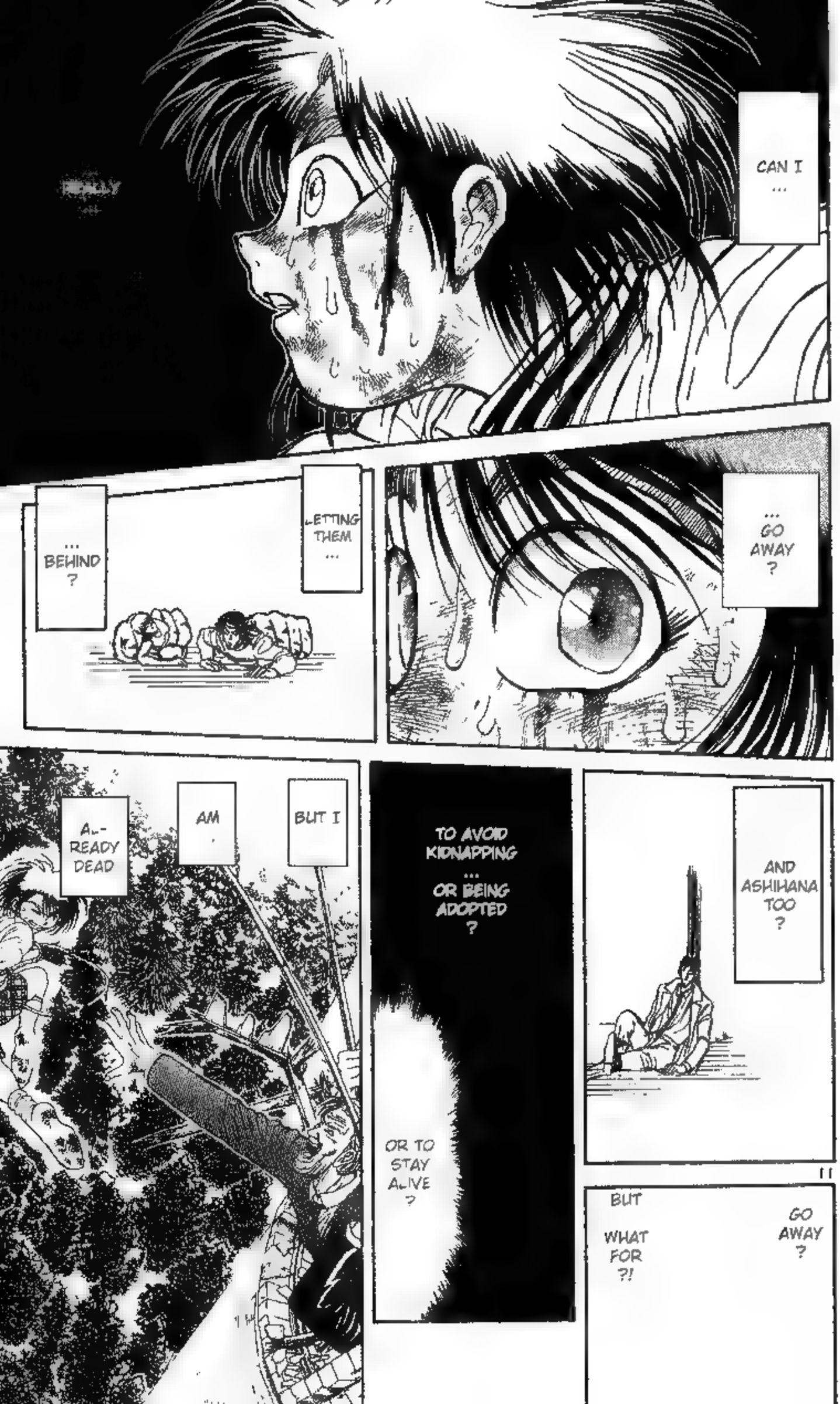
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR MASARU ?!

HURRY UP MASTER !

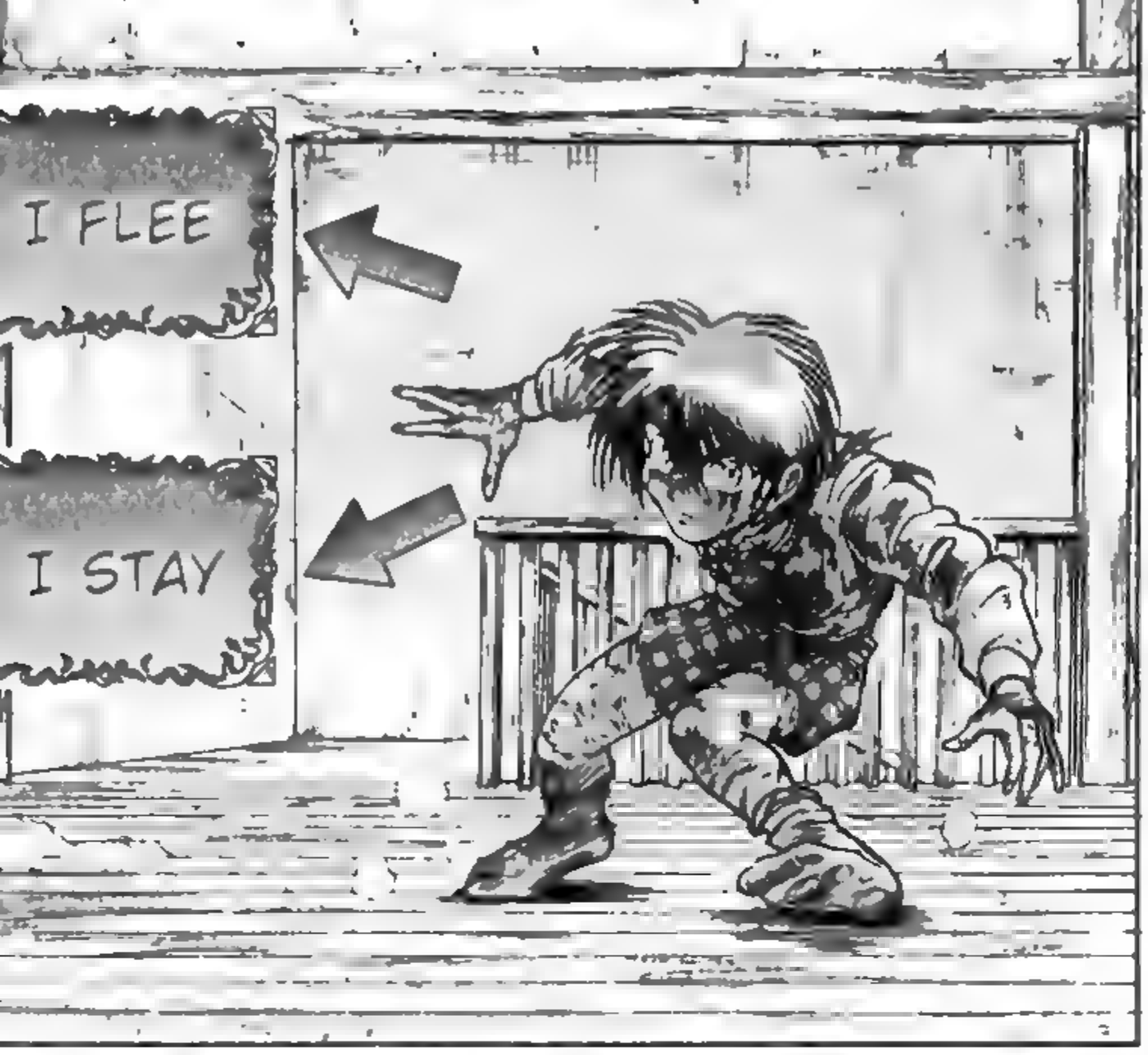
YOU'RE FROZEN BY FEAR
HA HA HA! YOUR FRIENDS ARE TELLING YOU TO FLEE BUT...

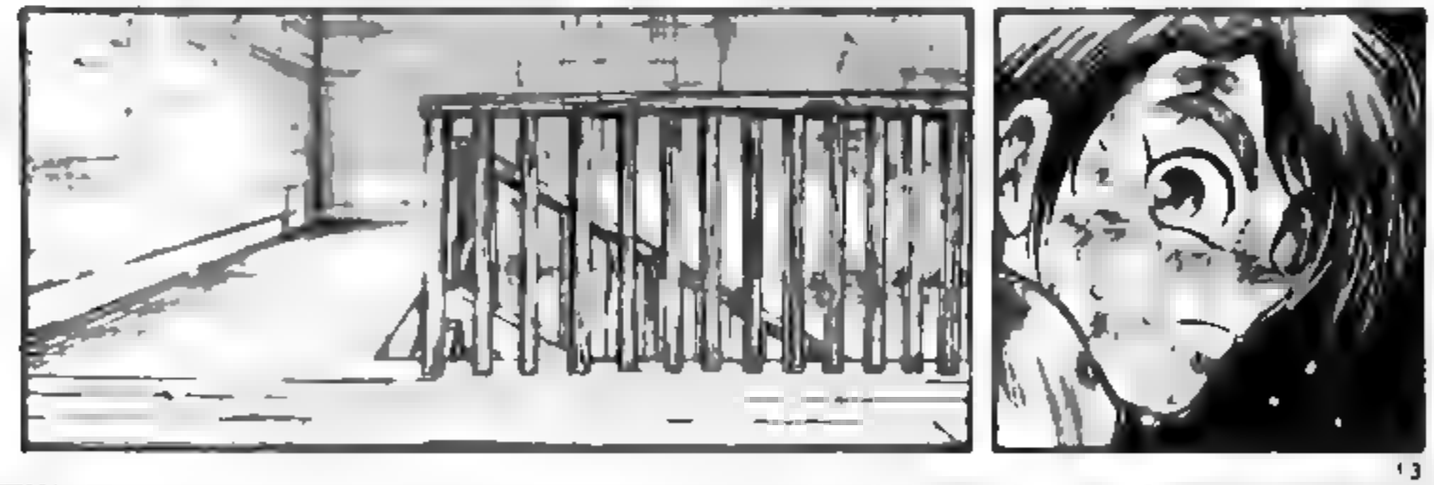
I DON'T WANNA DIE'
NO
EXPLODE

BRAT!
HURRY UP MASTER !
RUN MASARU !
NOT SO FAST, BRAT !
GO!


CAN I ...
... GO AWAY ?
... BEHIND ?
LETTING THEM ...
AL-READY DEAD
AM
BUT I
TO AVOID KIDNAPPING ... OR BEING ADOPTED ?
OR TO STAY ALIVE ?
AND ASHIHANA TOO ?
BUT WHAT FOR ?!
GO AWAY ?

12


I FLEE
I STAY



COME BACK HERE OR I'LL SLICE YOU UP!
SCHLANG
SCHLANG
SCHLANG

BAM
I STAY

I STAY

BLOW

NOT TOWARDS US MASTER
NO, MASARU! NOT THAT WAY
TAN TAN TAN
BUT.. WHERE'S HE GOING ?
TA TA TA

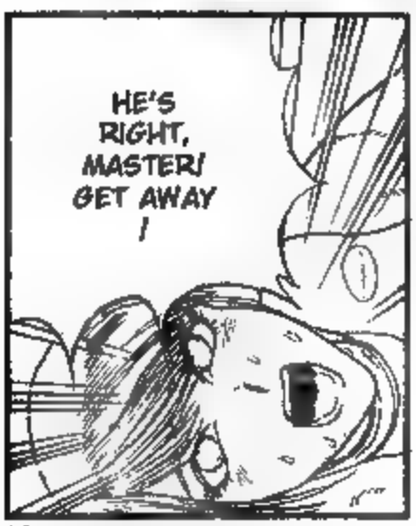
I STAY
ARE YOU GOING TO CARRY YOUR FRIENDS ON YOUR BACK ?
HEY BRAT! WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO ?

MASTER
!
...
NO
!!

KRLOMM

SSAH
SAH
AND I FIGHT
DAH

HE HE HE! I WAS WONDERING WHAT HE WAS GOING TO DO!
HAA, HA HA! THIS IS GOOD KIDS !


HE'S RIGHT, MASTER! GET AWAY !

A TRAINED ADULT WOULD NOT DO ANY-THING... SO, FOR A CHILD !!
YOU'VE GOT TO PRACTICE MANY YEARS TO BE ABLE TO MANIPULATE THAT KIND OF PUPPET! IT'S EXTREMELY HARD

FRLOMP

HSS

CLIC

IT'S MOVING !
WHAT ?!
MASARU !
MASTER ...

I REMEMBER VERY WELL EVERYTHING I SAW SINCE I WAS LITTLE ...
SHIROGANE, YOU KNOW ...

STOP IT, BRAT!
HMM .. JUST LUCKY

AND I REMEMBER ...
AND WHEN YOU RESCUED ME, THE FIRST TIME ... I REMEMBER THE MOMENT YOU GOT ARLEQUIN OUT OF HIS CASE ...

GET UP ARLEQUIN !
GET UP!
CLAC
CLAC
ALL THE MOVEMENTS YOU MADE TO MAKE ARLEQUIN STAND UP
CLIC CLIC CLIC

BIM
BIM
BIM

I WILL ALSO ...

TO FIGHT
STAND UP AGAIN ...

GET UP, ARLEQUIN !!!

ACT 1 : MASARU
CHAPTER 24
"SWIRLING TIGER"

Scanned by vensu
Translated by Kayvan
Edited by vensu
Checked by Spl

Released by : #blackout@irchighway.net
http://www.blackout-mangas.cjb.net

WHO ARE YOU, BRAT ?!

123

3

2

HAAA

AFTER YEARS OF TRAINING

THESE PUPPETS ARE ONLY MASTERED ...

UNBELIEVABLE ...

GEEZ! MASARU MADE ARLEQUIN MOVE ..

A PUPPET ... MANIPULATED BY A MERE BRAT!

HE... DID IT !!

OF COURSE
WHO MOVED THE PUPPET ?
IT'S THE KID . .

WHAT A GOOD MEMORY AND AN AMAZING FORCE OF CONCENTRATION !
NOW!

HE MANAGED TO MANIPULATE GRIMALDI... AND PRETTY WELL!
IT DOESN'T SURPRISE ME AT ALL!

4

BAM!
WAP

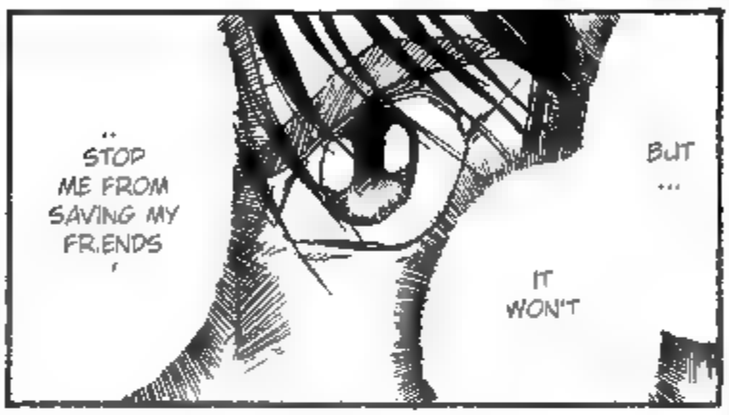
IS THAT TRUE ?

NO, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THAT'S JUST SOME LUCKY TRICK!
AH

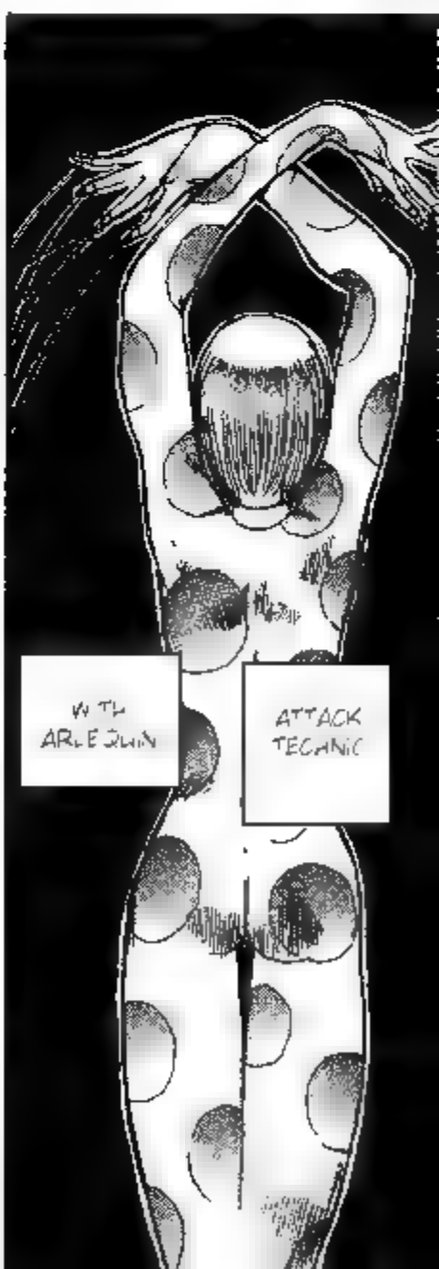
NO
..
HE BARELY STANDS UP!
HE'LL NEVER DO IT!
THIS BOY IS VERY SMART
...
HE NEVER ACTS USELESSLY
I'M COMING MASTER! I'LL FREE MYSELF AND
...
WHAT MAKES YOU SO CONFIDENT, ASHIHANA ?!
!
WHAT ?!
... PERFECTLY IMITATE YOU
I THINK HE'LL BE ABLE TO
..
5
DIDN'T YOU USE
..
ANY PARTICULAR TECHNIC IN FRONT OF HIM?
TRY TO REMEMBER MISS

I CAN'T MAKE YOU MOVE AS WELL AS SHIROGANE
SORRY ARLEQUIN

ONLY ONE KIND OF
I SAW


.. STOP ME FROM SAVING MY FRIENDS
BUT ...
IT WON'T

GET RID OF HIM WITH A SINGLE HIT!
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU KANO?! YOU'RE LOSING TIME PLAYING WITH THAT BRAT!


WITH ARLEQUIN
ATTACK TECHNIC

... MY TURN NOW !!

BAAN

SLAG

IT'S
...

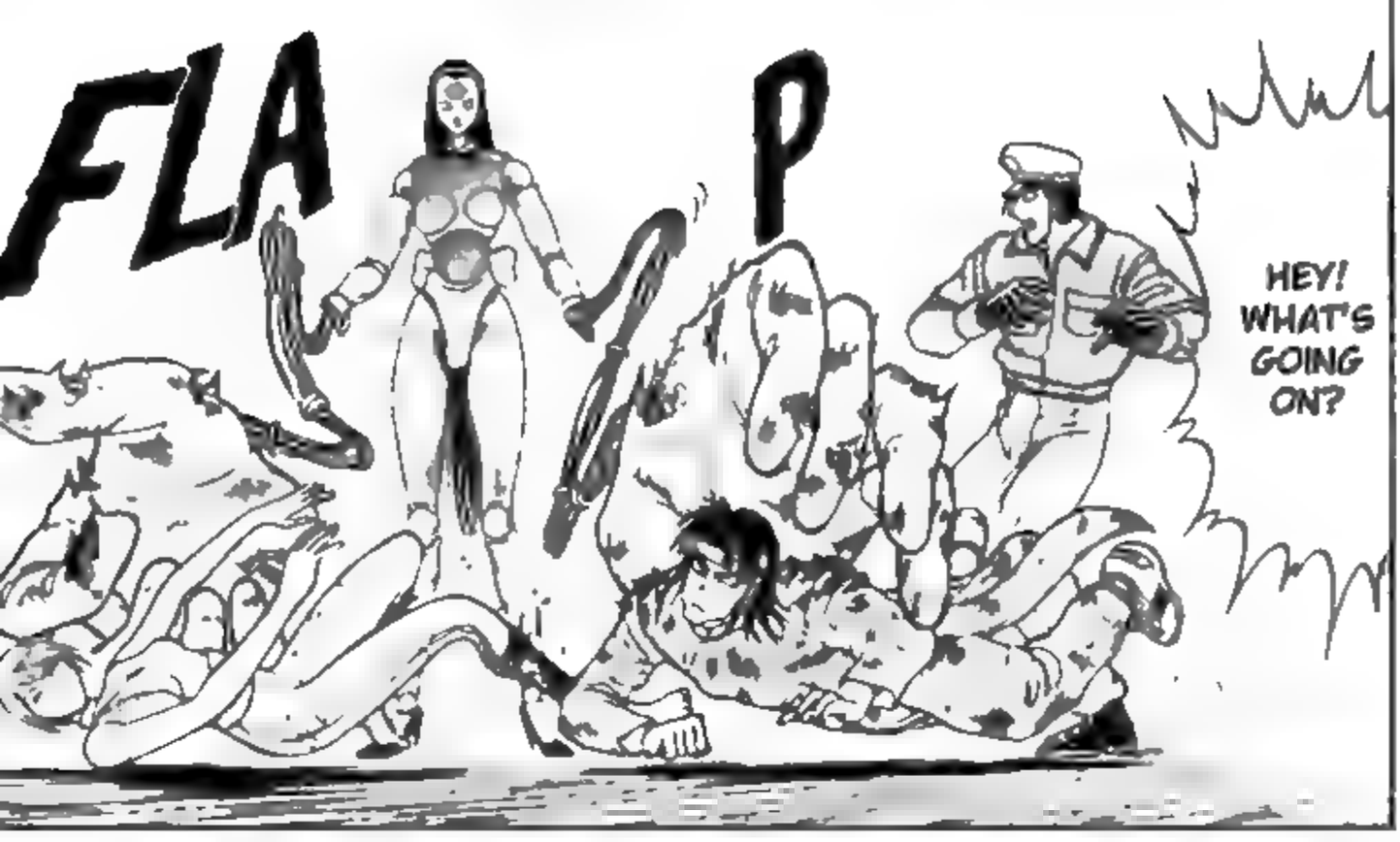
THAT
MOVE
...

SCLAC
CLIC CLAC
EL OMF

GO, BABULO !
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO HANDLE A PUPPET !
CLAC CLAC CLAC
TIC TIC TIC
KR KR

GOING
RRR
WOW WOW

10
KANO !!
OUCH !!
SPAAF

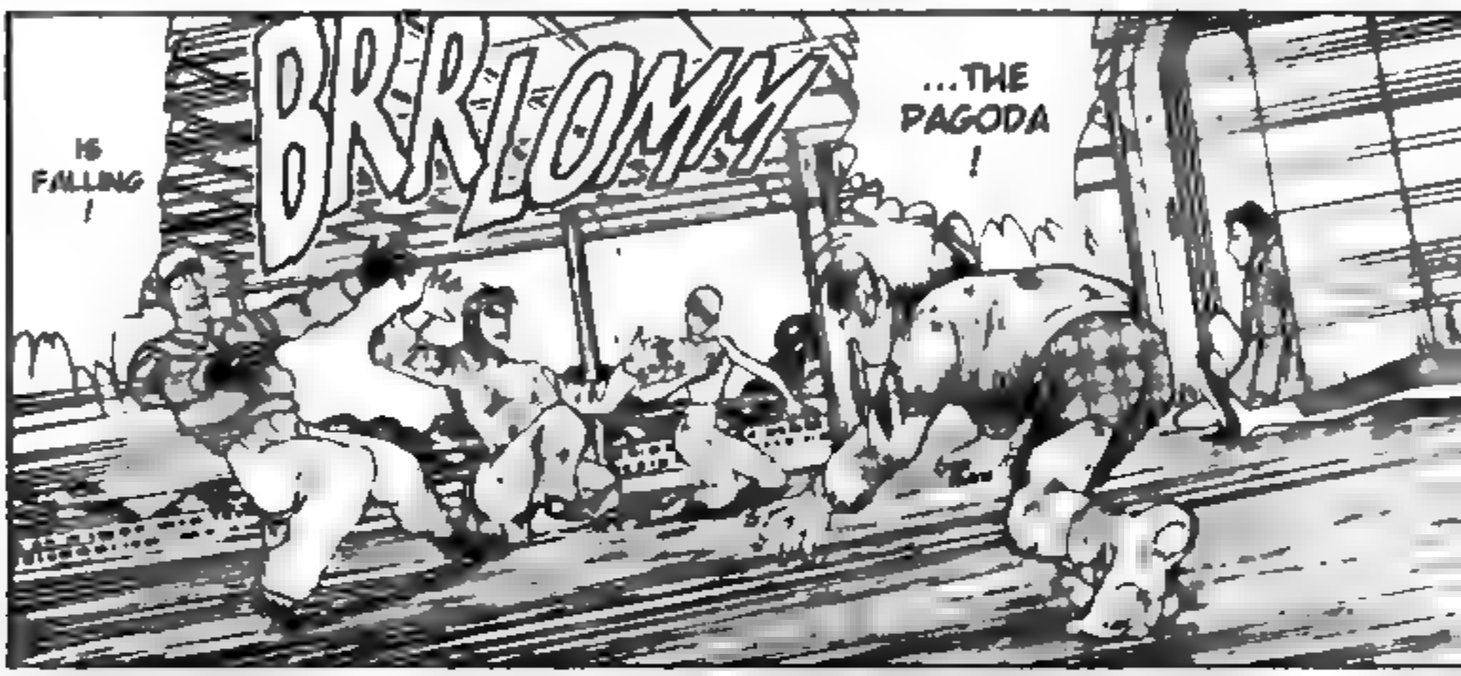

FLA
P
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?

BKKO
OM

CRACK
BOOM

DA DA DAAA

BLAM
DOH
BOM


BRRLOMM
IS FALLING !
...THE PAGODA !

DOOHH

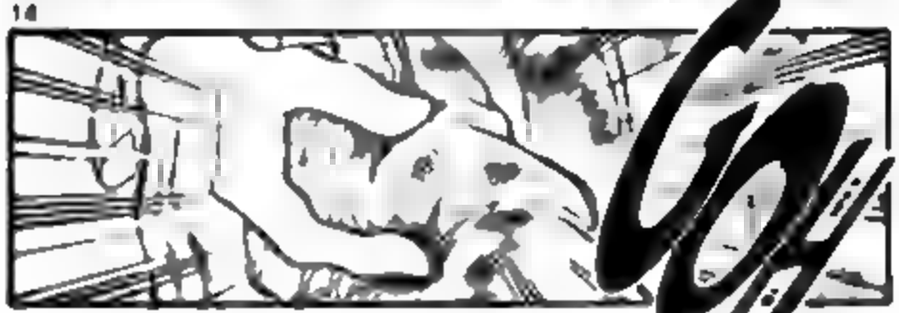
BLAAM
BAOOM

GNN
I MUST GET AWAY
BLAAM
MY BEAUTIFUL HOUSE
IS FALLING APART
DOOH
BO-OM
AH!
VLAM

AHH ...
ALL THIS IS... MASARU'S FAULT. WHY .. DIDN'T HE LISTEN TO ME ?
MY... LEG...
GHHH
OOM
I MUST GET THERE
THE ELEVATOR
BLAAM
THERE

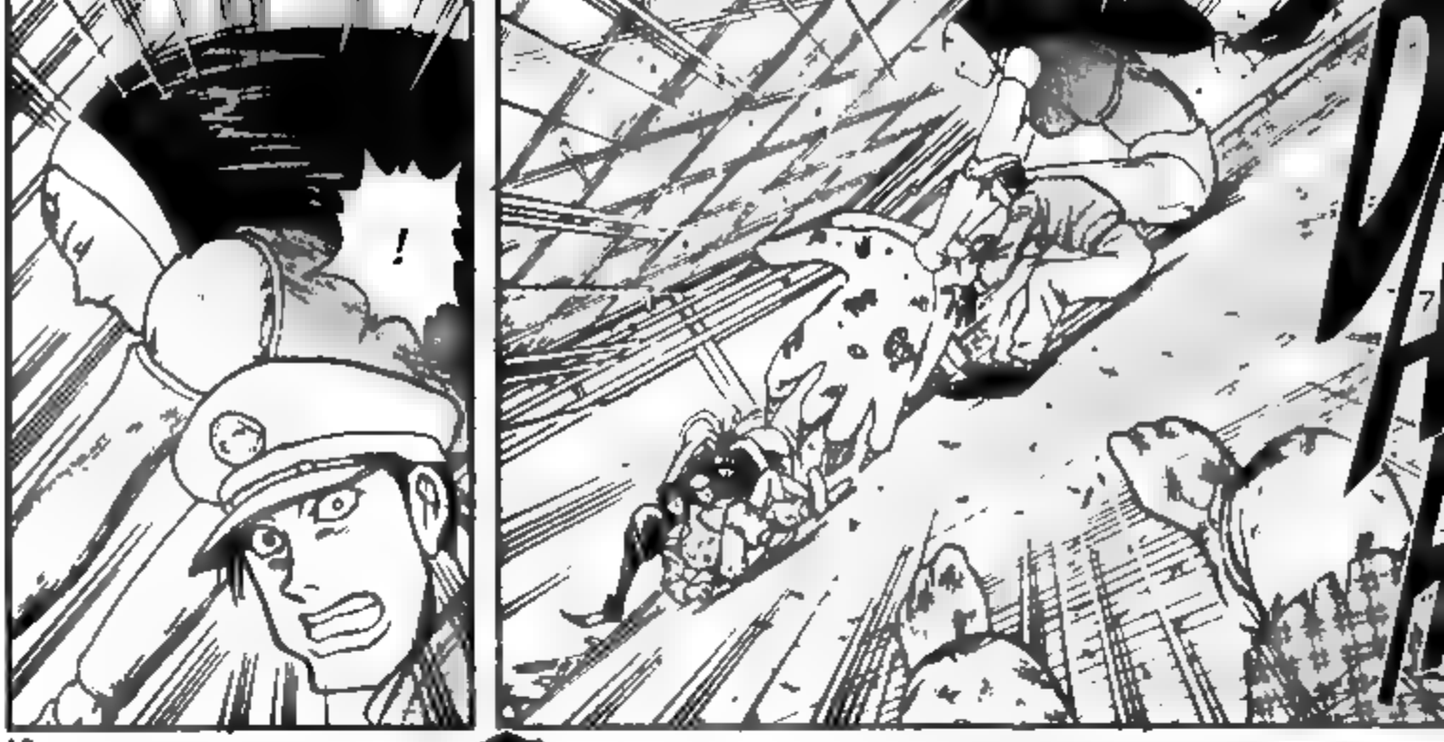
CRKRKR

MASTER!
WE'RE GONNA GET CRUSHED


GO!!

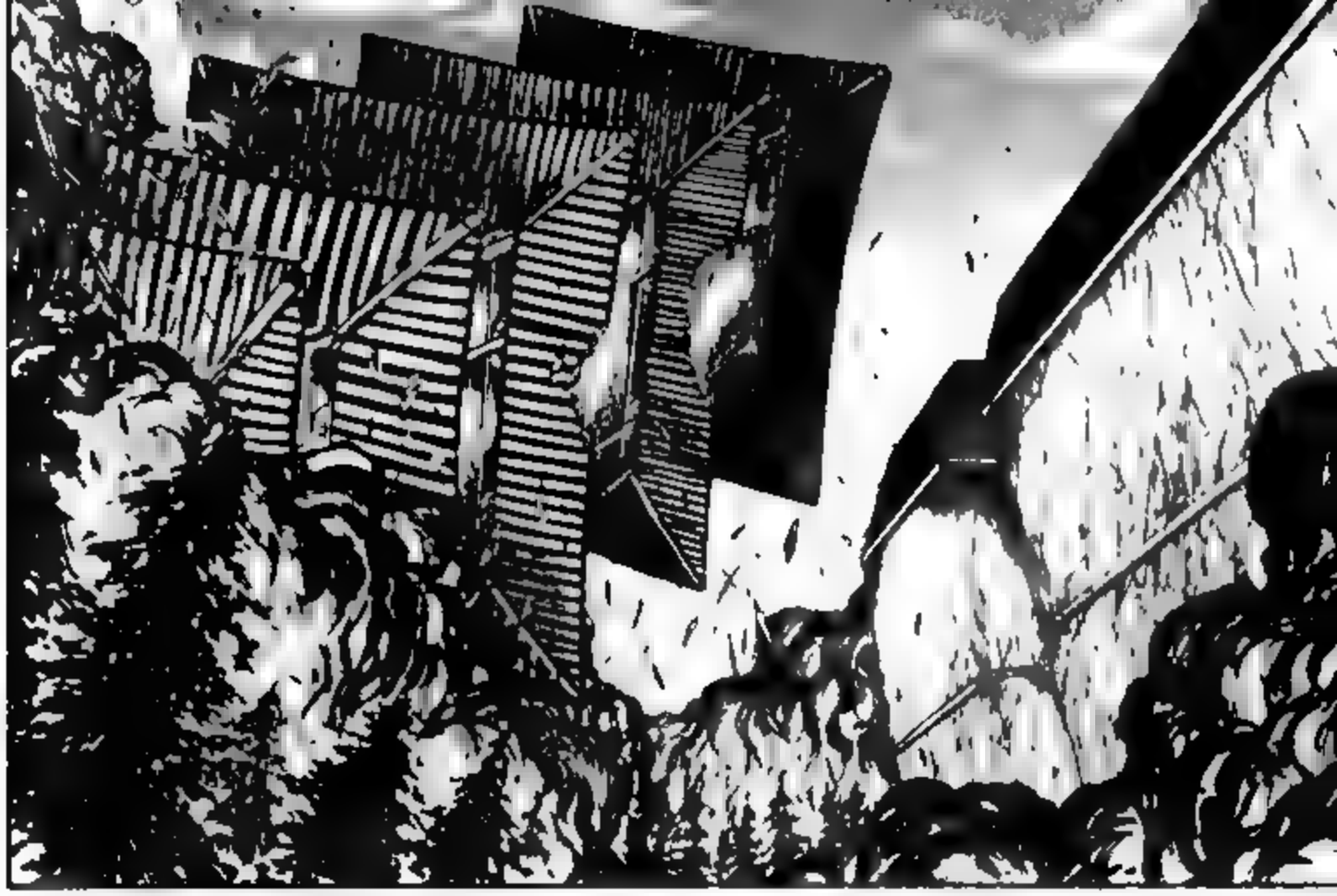
DOOH!

...
ARLEQUIN?!
BUT...
15
I'LL KILL YOU ALL BEFORE WE GET CRUSHED !!
ATTACK !!
SWELLING
UP

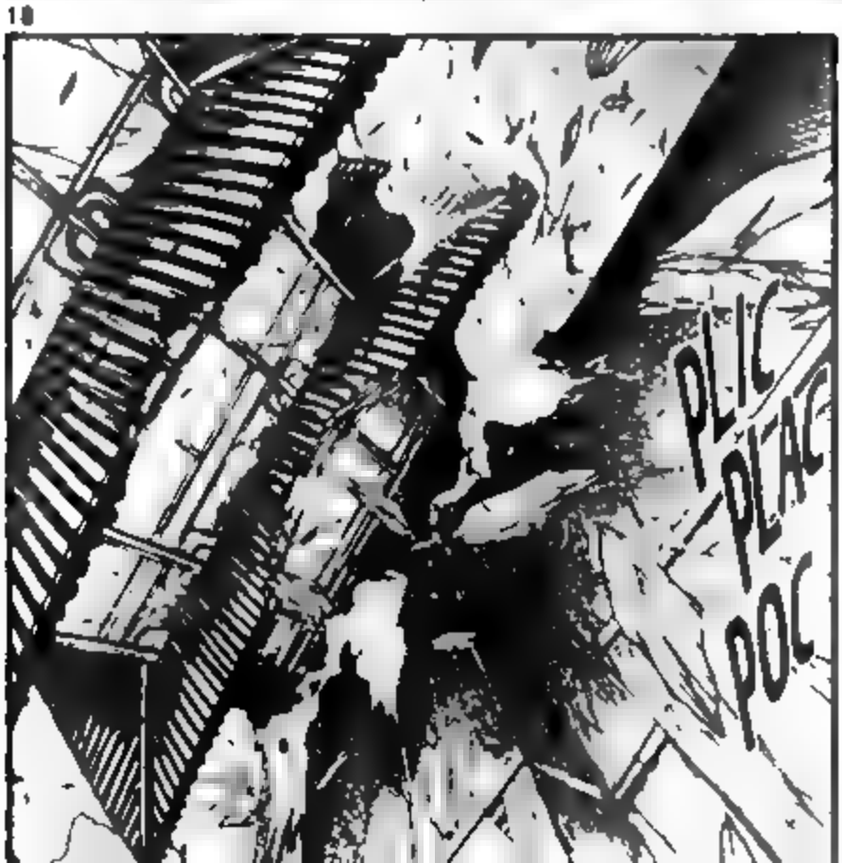

!

NICE SHOT KID ..
YEAH !

ARLEQUIN!



BL
AAAAAAAA
AHH!


PLIC
PLAC
POC

HELP
!!
BOM

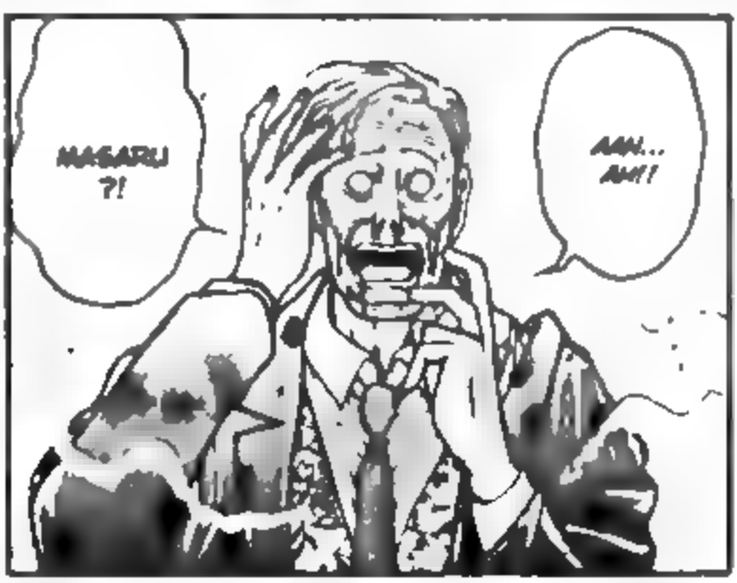
DOOH
HEUH
HEUH

NARUMI! SHIROGANE !
MASARU !

!

MISTER ASHIHANA ... YOU'RE HEAVY ...
IT'S TRUE THEN ?! WE'RE NOT DEAD ?!
THE PAGODA JUST LEANED ON THE NEXT BUILDING ?!

YOU BASTARD !!
UNCLE ZENJI ?


MASARU ?!
AAH... AH!!

... HELP ME!! I BEG YOU !!
PLEASE

ACT 1: MASARU - CHAPTER TWENTY FIVE - "ESCAPE"

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ACT 1: MASARU

CHAPTER TWENTY FIVE

"ESCAPE"

2

SPARE ME ...
HAVE MERCY ...
GYHH
BASTARD! IT'S YOU WHO GOT MASARU KIDNAPPED! ONLY TO STEAL HIS MONEY!
AND WHEN YOU SAW THAT IT WOULDN'T WORK, YOU'VE DONE EVERYTHING SO THAT HE DIES.

HELP ME !!

NO!
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU !!
YOU'VE SEEN IN WHICH STATE MASARU IS?!

NARUMI, WAIT!!
DA
AN

BUT, WHY?
...
ALL THIS, IT'S BECAUSE OF HIM!!

HMM
EVERYTHING IS FINE NOW ...

...I'M SORRYYY !!!
FORGIVE ME, MASARU!
TAN TA

NARUMI ...
MASARU ... WHY ARE YOU SMILING ?!
...
5
YOU'VE GROWN, MASARU ..
YES... THANKS ... THANKS ..
VHH
IT'S OK! BUT ..
THE OLD MAN WOULD BETTER WATCH HIMSELF !
HA HA! BUT YES !
.. YOU DON'T AGREE WITH ME, SHIROGANE ?
WHAT?! BUT, NO! NOT AT ALL!
NON
NON
... NN ...

SHE LOSES LOTS OF BLOOD
YOU SAY HER LEGS HAVE BEEN HALF SEVERED
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!

SAH
HOW ARE WE GOING TO LEAVE THIS PLACE ?!

GOOHHH

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO JUMP ... IT'S TOO FAR
NO!
GOOHHH
THE FIRE HAS NOT REACHED THOSE TREES OVER THERE
DAMN! WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GO DOWN!

7

I'VE FOUND OUR TWO PUPPET MASTER FRIENDS WAY TOO RELAXED ... SO IT DREW MY ATTENTION!
THEY CONFESSED THEIR LITTLE SECRET TO ME
ASHIHANA!
DON'T GIVE UP SO FAST, GUYS !
CLIC
CLIC
CLIC

HE HIRED ME I'M AT HIS SERVICE !
DASH
I UNDERSTAND YOU PREVENT US FROM TAKING ACTION ... BUT WHY ARE YOU HELPING THIS BRAT ?
ASHIHANA! YOU'RE PART OF THE ASSASSINS CLAN! NO?!
WE GOT TO LEAVE !
NOW, MOVE YOUR ASS !
N.. ?!
8
HE TOLD ME THAT HIS GRICELLE HAD THE CAPACITY TO MAKE INCREDIBLE JUMPS!
MR. ASHIHANA, WHAT IS HE DOING ?
CLIC
CLIC
CLIC
SHIFT

BLAAMM
GOOOHH
WE'LL GET THERE WHILE UNROLLING THE CABLES BEHIND US
THEY ALREADY PLANNED TO TAKE YOU ALONG, BY JUMPING TO THE TREES THAT ARE JUST IN FRONT

HOW CAN WE TRUST YOU ? WHO TELLS US THAT YOU WON'T CUT THE CABLES, WHEN WE'LL BE HALFWAY?!

YES! IT'S A VERY GOOD IDEA !
I'M CERTAIN THAT ARLEQUIN WILL BE ABLE TO GO ON THEM AND CARRY YOU THREE

...IT'S PRECISELY TO PREVENT THEM FROM DOING SO !
IF I GO WITH THEM FIRST...

SHIROGANE THINKS THE SAME!
WE CAN'T TRUST YOU !
DAWN

MR. ASHIKANA ..

I ONLY DO MY JOB
MASARU HIRED ME ... FOR ONE BILLION YEN!
SO IT'S IN MY INTEREST TO PROTECT HIM !
HERE'S 10 YENS FOR YOUR SERVICES !
CLING
IN THIS CASE, ME TOO, I HIRE YOU
GOOD

I'M YOUR MAN !
PAH
NOW, I ADVISE YOU TO SAVE MASARU ...
... OR ELSE I'LL BREAK ALL YOUR BONES !

HERE WE GO
KRRR
VROOM VROOM
PAF

THEY DID IT !

VLAMF

ZOÏNG

AND FOR YOU! TOO
YOLING MASTER
WE HAVE TO QUICKLY FIND YOU A DOCTOR, SHIROGANE !
HOLD THE CABLES WELL ...

MASARU
COME, MASARU. I'LL ATTACH YOU
TAKE ME ALONG WITH YOU!
YOU HAVE ... TO HELP ME ...
LISTEN, MASARU. YOU CAN LEAVE HIM HERE. WE WON'T BLAME YOU!
FU
AH
HMM
...
NARUMI ...
... ARE YOU SERIOUS?

I...
... DISLIKE TO SEE PEOPLE DIE ... OR EVEN SUFFER

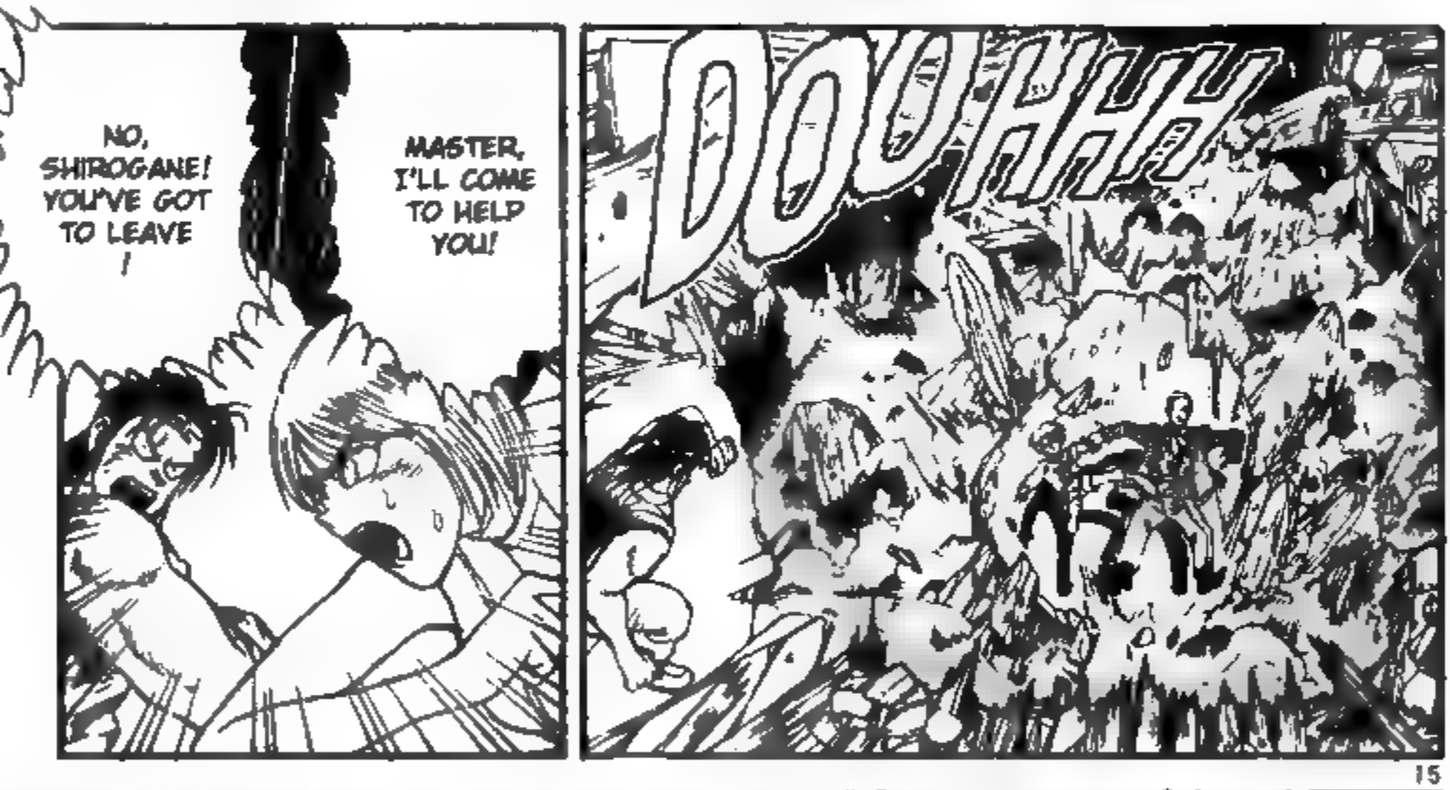
YOU TOLD ME THAT I HAD BECOME A GOOD BOY ... THEN ...
IF I'M STRONGER NOW . .
IT'S A LITTLE THANKS TO HIM

BRRROMM
CRA CRA CRA
!

OK BUT
MAKE IT QUICK

TAN
YES
COME, MY UNCLE ..
THANKS ... THANKS .

BANG
MASARU!
AAHH!


NO, SHIROGANE! YOU'VE GOT TO LEAVE !
MASTER, I'LL COME TO HELP YOU!
DOOHHH

I'LL GO TO FIND THEM. DON'T WORRY ... WE'LL JOIN YOU IN NO TIME!
GH
YOU'RE CRITICALLY WOUNDED TO THE LEGS! YOU WON'T GO FAR!
I CAN'T LEAVE YOU ALL LIKE THAT!!

ARGH
...
GOBS

BUT..
EVEN SO
I'LL GO
...
FIND
MASARU
...
EH .. THE
EFFECT OF
YOUR SMILE
MIGHT HAVE
SOFTENED

YOU
HAVE AN
ATTACK,
NOW
?!

OR
ELSE,
HE WILL
HE WILL
I
HAVE
TO

I MUST
LAUGH

I'D HAVE
TO BE
ABLE TO
LAUGH
,
TO
HELP
HIM

M?
SORRY . .
WHY CAN'T I DO IT ?!
I CAN'T!
WHY ?
WHY ?
I CAN'T LAUGH!
FHH
17
LOOK... YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE FOR THAT

YOU'RE REALLY PRICELESS !
HA! HA! ... HONESTLY ...

WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO GO OUT !
STAND UP, UNCLE ZENJI !
IT'S THE END! WE'RE GOING TO DIE !

AH!!

YOU'RE APOLOGIZING ?
BUT . .
WHY SHOULD YOU APOLOGIZE FOR SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE ?
ACT 1: MASARU - CHAPTER TWENTY SIX
"THE CURTAIN IS DOWN"

SAH

YOU ARE ...
... TOO CUTE !

ACT 11
MASARU

CHAPTER
TWENTY SIX

"THE CURTAIN
IS DOWN"

NARUMI!!

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Translated by hicks
Edited by vensu
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GOOOH

BLAAMM
DOOH

...NO! ...NO! EVERY-THING'S OVER !!
WE'LL TRY TO GO BACK UP THERE! HARUNI'S WAITING US TO LEAVE !

UNCLE ZENJI !

THIS WAY !
MUUH ... MUUH ...

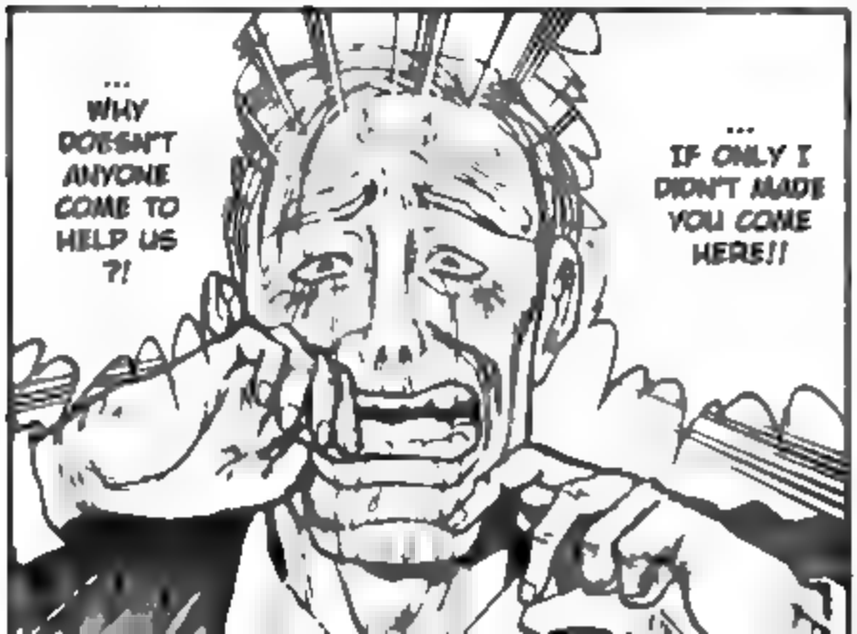
THE STAIRS HAVE COLLAPSED! WE CAN'T GO ANYWHERE !

FLAP
FLAP

PSCHHH

PUT THIS ON YOUR MOUTH! I READ FROM A BOOK THAT IT ENABLES TO BREATH, WHEN SURROUNDED BY FIRE! IT'LL MAKE US ABLE TO RUN AWAY

SCHRAC


... WHY DOESN'T ANYONE COME TO HELP US ?!
... IF ONLY I DIDN'T MADE YOU COME HERE!!

TO RUN AWAY ?! AND TO GO WHERE ?! IT'S NO USE, ALL THIS !!
PAF

YOU'RE NOT VERY COURAGEOUS, MY UNCLE ...
WHAT ?
... NEVER GIVE UP! ... UNDERSTOOD ?!
BUT... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?!
... AND YOU INSULT PEOPLE WHEN BEING ANGRY ...
YOU SHOUT FOR HELP WHEN HAVING A PROBLEM ...
HUUH?!
WHEN I MET NARUMI FOR THE FIRST TIME...
... IT WAS THIS WAY HOW HE ENCOURAGED ME

HMM

WE'LL GET OUT OF HERE !

NOW ... COME, UNCLE ZENJI ..

DOOOH!

WHAT'S IN THE BASEMENT ?

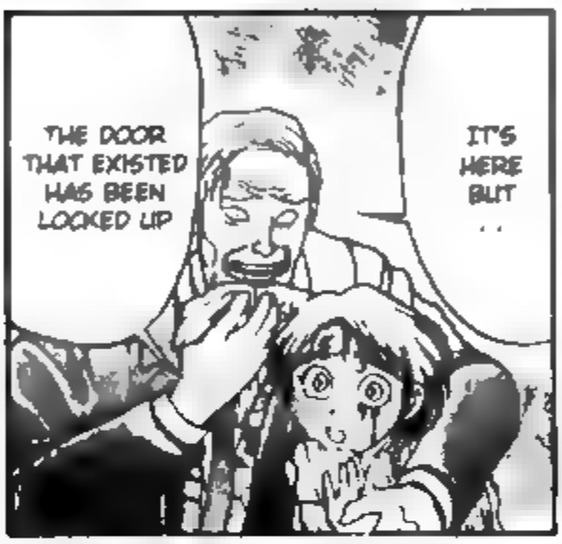
THAT'S IT
BUT YES! THE BASEMENT

THESE STAIRS LEAD TO THE BASEMENT! THEY DIDN'T TAKE FIRE YET!
THIS WAY !

WHAT'S GOING ON?

BRRRRRRO
OMM
IT'S THERE THAT I WANTED TO DROWN YOUR FRIENDS ..
A VERY LARGE NETWORK OF GALLERIES AND TUNNELS IS ACCESSIBLE WHEN COMING FROM THE BASEMENT
LET'S GO !!
BUT ...
YES! THERE WILL BE SOME AIR
THEN IT MEANS THAT ...
THE WATER COMES FROM A LAKE NEARBY
AND THE LOCKS HAVEN'T BEEN CLOSED, SINCE THE OTHER TIME
IT WON'T BE WORSE THAN STAYING HERE !!

CRAC
PAC
GOOHH

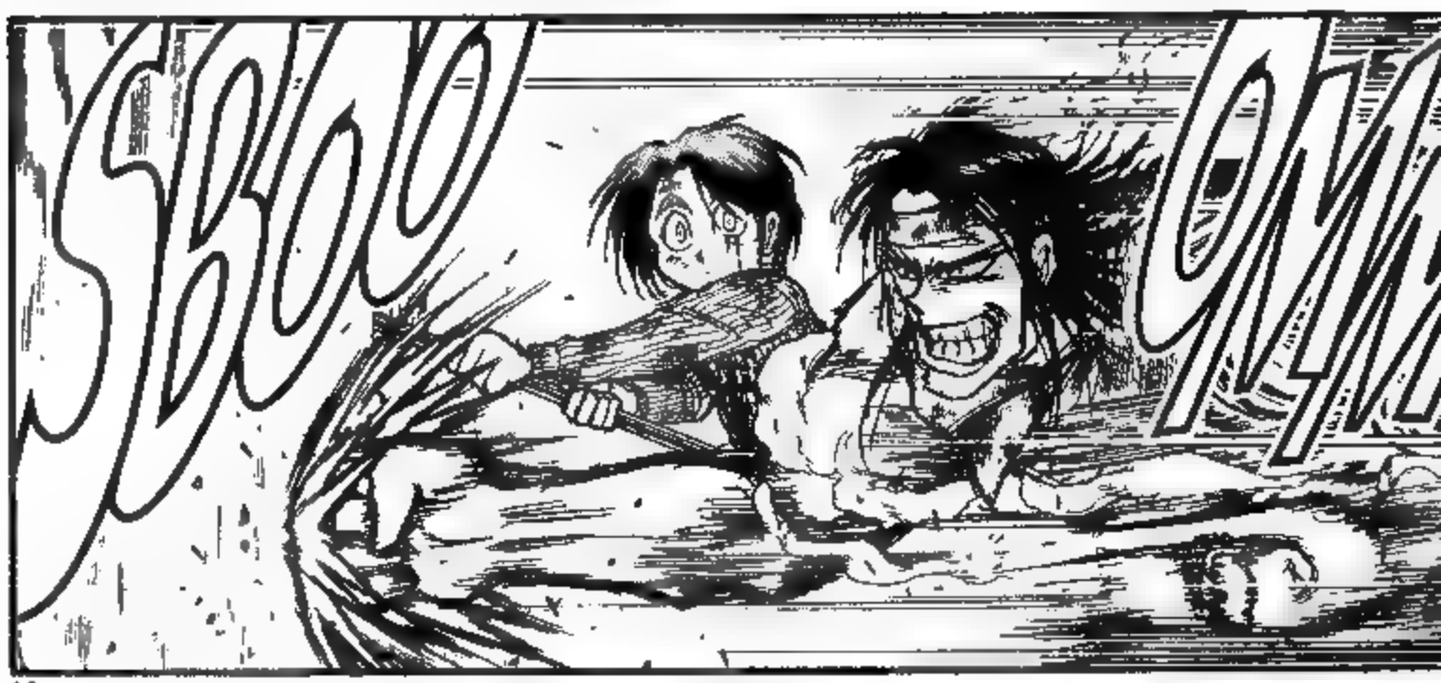

THE DOOR THAT EXISTED HAS BEEN LOCKED UP
IT'S HERE BUT . .

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING
. . WHERE IS IT?

BING

THERE'S ONE OF THE TUNNELS
BEHIND THIS WALL

HEUH
HEUH
GHHHHH
BLOW
BLANG
THE FIRE IS JUST BEHIND US!
QUICK! WE MUST BREAK THIS WALL ... JUST HERE !!
BOMF
UNCLE ZENJI !
BOM
I'LL CONTINUE ... UNTIL THE END !
OLD
YES SARUMA YOU'RE RIGHT
EVERY-THING'S OVER MY BOY
HEUH HEUH
NEVER GIVE UP !!



I'VE LOOKED FOR THE PLACE WHERE THE FIRE WAS THE WEAKEST
BUT... HOW...

NARUM!?!
...
IT'S YOU ?!

PROBABLY A TUNNEL
WHICH LEADS TO OUTSIDE
TELL ME
YOU WANTED TO BREAK THIS WALL ? I CONGRATULATE YOU! YOU KNOW WHAT'S BEHIND ?
PERFECT !!
OHH
DOH
DOH

NARUMI! YOUR HANDS ARE COVERED WITH BLOOD !
DON'T WORRY .. MY CHI-KONG TECHNIQUE IS PERFECT!
!

WHILE MY BODY WORKS, I HAVE TO ACCOMPLISH MY DUTY!
ANYWAY ...
ZZAAN
HUH?
HUH?
HUUH? NOT AT ALL!
YOU'VE GOT A ZONAPHA ATTACK?!
GLOUPS
DON'T CRY !!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO HURT YOURSELF !
NO, STOP !
SHAAA

I'LL SAVE YOU !
DON'T CRY MASARU
TO SHIROGANE
I PROMISED
SAH!

BLAM!
GRR...!
GRR...!

YOU DID IT !
SCHAAHH

THE WHOLE BUILDING IS ON FIRE !
BLAAOOM

BLAAM!!
YOUNG MASTER! NARUMI!
...CAREFUL, NARUMI!
BRRL
THIS WAY, MASARU!
SOAH
NARUMI!
GHH
DOM
DON'T WORRY, I'LL PROTECT YOU!
HA HA! I DIDN'T FEEL ANY-THING!

MY GRAND-FATHER WAS A CLOWN
HE WAS PROUD OF HIS JOB AND WAS ALWAYS SAYING THAT HE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO STOP!
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, MY GRANDFATHER TOLD ME
THAT I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A CLOWN, IN A CIRCUS
AH?
IF I HAD BECOME A CLOWN
I WOULD HAVE MET LOTS OF PEOPLE ABLE TO LAUGH
I REFUSED TO FOLLOW HIM
AND DEVOTED MYSELF TO KUNG-FU
SPLAT

MASARU
YOU HAVE TO CONTINUE TO LAUGH
NARUMI
ALL THIS TO SAY
... THAT I'M VERY HAPPY TO HAVE MET YOU
LIKE YOU MASARU

... PROMISE ME THAT YOU'LL TRY TO LAUGH, ALL THE REMAINING TIME
BUT ...
HMM

YOU'LL PERHAPS LIVE TIMES WHEN YOU'LL WANT TO CLENCH YOUR TEETH, OR EVEN CRY..

NARUMI !
BRRROM
KOM

GRRA

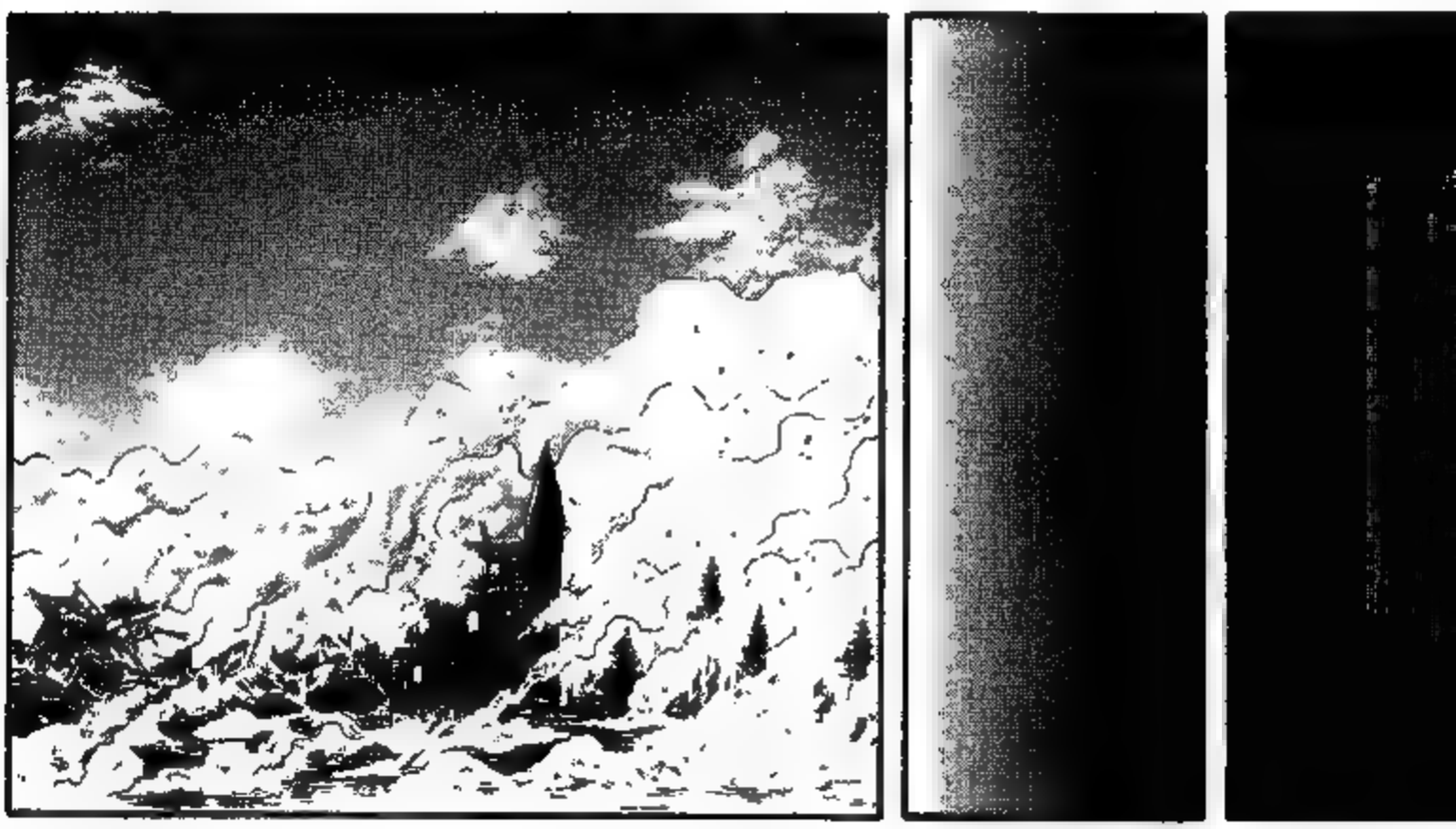
NARUMI !!

... TRY TO ALWAYS TAKE THE GOOD DECISION
GOOUT
WHEN YOU'LL LIVE AN IMPORTANT MOMENT ...

BUT, NARUMI ...
GET DOWN, MASARU !
DOH

AND
IF YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CAN DO NOTHING ABOUT IT
YOU ALREADY CRY
AGREED MASARU ?

BLAAAM



VHHH
CHH
SLATCH
VHHH
WE'RE SAVED, NARUMI !
FUUU... IT'S OVER ..

ONE CAN SAY THAT LIFE IS A LONG PATH ...

25

ONE DAY, MY PATH, SEPARATED IN TWO ...

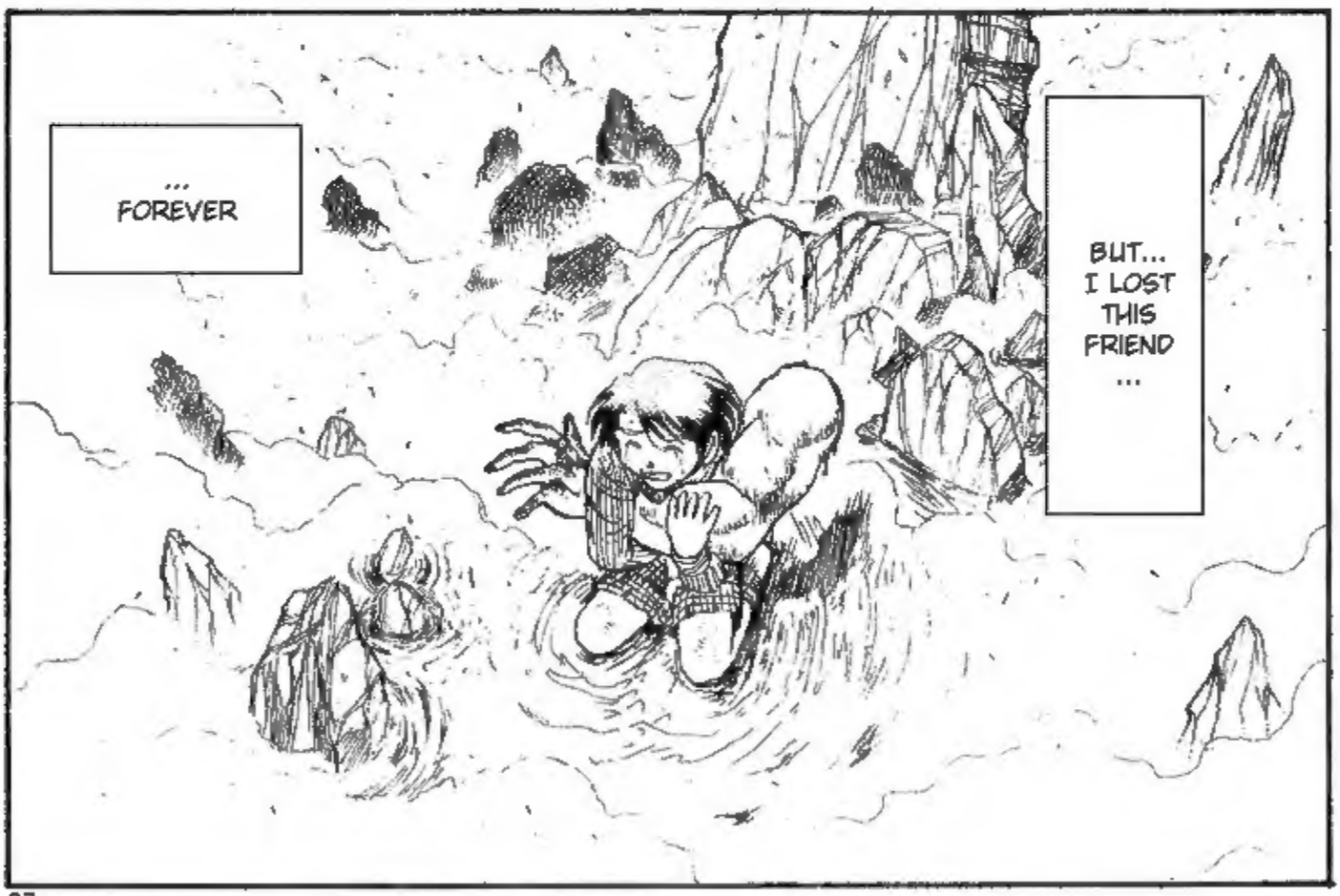
...
I MET A FUNNY BEAR
THIS DAY ...

I IGNORE HIM
I TALK WITH HIM

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRAIN WITH ME ?
WHERE ARE THE AUBERGINES ?

I TALK WITH HIM
DU SOLEIL

I'VE LEARNED LOTS OF THINGS
TO SMILE
CONT-INUE ...
IF YOU DESIRE IT
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BECOME STRONG
... THAT'S VERY INTER-ESTING !
THANKS TO HIM ...
STINKY DIRTY VERMIN !!
... YOU'VE DEFENDED YOURSELF WELL TODAY !
BLING


... FOREVER
BUT... I LOST THIS FRIEND ...

... SOMEWHERE
... BEGINS TO RING OUT ...
AND NOW, THE RINGING THAT ANNOUNCE MY FUTURE LIFE

DON'T FORGET, MASARU ...
... YOU MUSTN'T CRY !
EVEN IN A TERRIBLE SITUATION, IF YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CAN LAUGH ABOUT IT...

END OF ACT ONE : MASARU